

public officer entitled to the custody of a public record, the superior court shall have jurisdiction in equity to compel any person unlawfully having such record in his possession to deliver the same to the complainant.

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public records.

Approved April 3, 1951.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING CHIEFS OF POLICE OR THE BOARDS OR OFFICERS HAVING CONTROL OF THE POLICE IN CITIES AND TOWNS TO ISSUE A LICENSE TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR TO POSSESS A MACHINE GUN.

Chap. 201

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 131 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as amended by chapter 302 of the acts of 1936, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "town", in line 3, the words: — the chief of police or the board or officer having control of the police in a city or town, — so as to read as follows: —

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 140, § 131, etc., amended.

Section 131. The justice of a court or a trial justice, the board of police or mayor of a city, the selectmen of a town, the chief of police or the board or officer having control of the police in a city or town, or the commissioner of public safety, or persons authorized by them, respectively, may, upon the application of any person residing or having a place of business within their respective jurisdictions, except an alien, a person who has been convicted of a felony or of the unlawful use or sale of drugs or a minor other than one fifteen years of age or over in the employ of a bank, public utility corporation or business of a similar nature whose application is endorsed by his employer, issue a license to such applicant to carry a pistol or revolver in the commonwealth or to possess therein a machine gun, if it appears that he is a suitable person to be so licensed and that he has good reason to fear an injury to his person or property or for any other proper purpose, and the carrying of a pistol or revolver for use for target practice only shall be held to be a proper purpose aforesaid. Such license shall be issued for a term not to exceed one year, but may be for a less period, and all such licenses shall be revocable at the will of the person or body issuing the same, who shall forthwith send written notice of such revocation to the commissioner of public safety. Said licenses shall be issued on forms furnished by said commissioner. Said form shall contain blank spaces to be filled in with the following information relating to the license and to the licensee: — Name, residence or place of business, commencement and expiration date of license, reason for issuing said license, license number, date of issuance of said license, place of birth, height, weight, complexion, color of hair, color of eyes, date of naturalization if formerly an alien, and signature, of said licensee; and no further information from, or act of, the said licensee shall be required. A copy of every license so issued shall within one week after the granting thereof be sent to the said commissioner. The fee for each license issued under this section

License to carry pistol, etc.

shall be fifty cents. Whoever issues a license in violation of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than six months nor more than two years in a jail or house of correction.

Approved April 3, 1951.

Chap.202 AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE LOWELL TEXTILE INSTITUTE TO GRANT BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 74, § 47E, etc., amended.

Chapter 74 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 47E, as most recently amended by chapter 28 of the acts of 1949, and inserting in place thereof the following section:—*Section 47E.* The board may grant the degree of bachelor of science to students who have taken the four year day course and have passed the examinations required for graduation.

Board may grant degrees of bachelor of science and master of science to certain students.

The board may also grant the degree of master of science to students who have completed satisfactorily graduate work of not less than one year resident instruction as prescribed by the board and approved by the commissioner; and the board may also confer the honorary degree of master of science.

Approved April 3, 1951.

Chap.203 AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF PERSONS GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE BY IMPRISONMENT IN STATE PRISON FOR LIFE IN CERTAIN CASES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 265, § 2, amended.

Chapter 265 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 2, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:—*Section 2.* Whoever is guilty of murder in the first degree shall suffer the punishment of death, unless the jury shall by their verdict, and as a part thereof, upon and after consideration of all the evidence, recommend that the sentence of death be not imposed, in which case he shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life. No such recommendation shall be made by a jury or recorded by the court if the murder was committed in connection with the commission of rape or an attempt to commit rape. Whoever is guilty of murder in the second degree shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life. In no event shall a person convicted of murder in the first degree be eligible for parole.

Punishment for murder.

Approved April 3, 1951.

Chap.204 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WAKEFIELD TO ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The municipal light board of the town of Wakefield may authorize the manager of municipal lighting or any other person or corporation acting in their behalf to