
Chapter 353. AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SICK LEAVE BANK FOR THOMAS F. SWEENEY, JR., AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to establish forthwith a sick leave bank for a certain employee of the department of correction, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Notwithstanding any general or special law or rule or regulation to the contrary, the department of correction shall establish a sick leave bank for Thomas F. Sweeney, Jr., an employee of said department. Any employee of said department may voluntarily contribute 1 or more of his sick, personal or vacation days to said sick leave bank for use by said Thomas F. Sweeney, Jr.

When Thomas F. Sweeney, Jr. terminates employment with said department or requests to dissolve said sick leave bank, the balance of the sick leave time remaining in the sick leave bank shall be transferred to the extended illness leave bank.

The foregoing was laid before the Governor on the Ninth day of September, 2004 and after ten days had the force of law as prescribed by the Constitution as it was not returned by him to the branch in which it originated with his objections thereto within that time.

Chapter 354. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF ACTON TO LEASE A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The town of Acton may lease map H-2A, parcel 49 of the assessors maps for a term of not more than 25 years, for the purpose of constructing private parking facilities.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, including chapter 30B of the General Laws, the board of selectmen of the town of Acton may issue a request for proposals for the lease described in section 1 to determine the terms and conditions of such request, to accept any proposal or negotiate changes in any proposal, or to reject all proposals, as they determine to be in the best interests of the town, and to take all others actions as may be necessary or desirable to carry out such project, but paragraphs (b) and (g) of section 16 of said chapter 30B shall apply to the lease described in section 1.

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SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved September 23, 2004.

Chapter 355. AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST VETERANS IN EMPLOYMENT.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 4 of chapter 151B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection 1C the following subsection:-

1D. For an employer, an employment agency, the commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions, by itself or its agents, to deny initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion or any benefit of employment to a person who is a member of, applies to perform, or has an obligation to perform, service in a uniformed military service of the United States, including the National Guard, on the basis of that membership, application or obligation.

SECTION 2. Chapter 115 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 2A the following section:-

Section 2B. There shall be a commission on veterans employment opportunities that shall investigate whether veterans are subjected to employment discrimination on the basis of their status as veterans. The commission shall report its findings and recommendation annually on March 1 to the secretary of veterans affairs. The commission shall consist of 5 persons as follows: the secretary of veterans affairs or his designee, the secretary of economic development or his designee, a member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, a member appointed by the president of the senate and a veteran appointed by the Governor.

Approved September 23, 2004.

Chapter 356. AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 60, the words "and (f)" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- (f) to appoint members to regional chapters of the commission; and (g).