



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 68

Shannon P. O'Brien Papers, 1988-1994: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: O'Brien, Shannon P.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 68

Extent: 2 boxes (2 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Shannon P. O'Brien Papers. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Provenance: Received from Shannon P. O'Brien, 1995.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Mary Bicknell, 1995; updated by Abigail Cramer, July, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents O'Brien's career as a Representative to the Massachusetts House of Representatives from the 2nd Hampshire District and as a Senator in the Massachusetts Senate.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The materials in this collection cover a broad range of topics of concern to O'Brien and about which she introduced or co-sponsored legislation. The materials cover topics of local concern to O'Brien's constituents, such as open air vending in Holyoke and Westfield State College emergency electrical repairs; also covered are issues of state-wide concern, including a variety of insurance and health care issues. The papers include correspondence, memos and notes, drafts of legislation, legislation fact sheets and summaries, legislation, reference materials, and

newspaper clippings. Issues covered include child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, police pursuit, insurance reimbursement for Certified Nurse Anesthetist services, liability of those involved in equine activity, unisex insurance, taxation of tangible property relating to the Holyoke Water Power Company, and tax credits for recycling.

Series I. Enacted Legislation includes legislation that has been enacted into law. *Series II. Legislation* includes legislation for which there is no clear indication of enactment. *Series III. Subject Files* includes materials related to domestic violence, health care, and child abuse. Senator O'Brien sponsored legislation that became Chapter 340 of the Acts of 1993 which made child abuse and neglect a felony in Massachusetts and repealed a religious exemption to the child neglect law. The subject files include correspondence with other legislators, attorneys and district attorneys, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and others concerned with legal reform in the areas of child abuse and neglect. They also contain reference material and newspaper clippings as well as legislation.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Shannon P. O'Brien was born in Boston, Massachusetts on April 30, 1959. She graduated from the Williston-Northampton School in 1977, received a B.A. from Yale University in 1981, and received a J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1985. A resident of Easthampton, O'Brien served as the Democratic Representative in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from the 2nd Hampshire District from 1987 to 1992 and as Democratic Senator in the Massachusetts Senate from the Hampden and Hampshire District from 1993 to 1994. She also served on the Easthampton Democratic Town Committee from 1982 to 1994 and was a Delegate to the Democratic State Convention in 1982 and 1986.

During O'Brien's terms of office as a Representative, she served on a number of committees: Banks and Banking, Counties, Insurance (as Vice Chair), and Judiciary and Transportation. As Senator, she served on the following committees: Energy, Insurance (as Vice Chair), Public Service, Steering and Policy (as Chair), and Rules. According to the Massachusetts Political Almanac, O'Brien's legislative priorities were elderly affairs, health care and its cost, employment, environmental affairs, the cost of insurance, budget affairs, funding of infrastructure repairs, and improving the business climate. O'Brien sponsored or co-sponsored a considerable body of legislation between 1987 and 1994. Most of this legislation was related to her legislative priorities such as reimbursement of Certified Nurse Anesthetist services, Business Improvement Districts, and child abuse. The legislation also related to matters of concern to her constituents such as the American Legion Memorial Bridge in Chicopee and the Holyoke park land transfer. The Massachusetts Political Almanacs from 1987 to 1994 list O'Brien as a member of the

Massachusetts and Hampshire Bar Associations, the Business and Professional Women's Club (1989-1990), Immaculate Conception Church Women's Club, Riverside Industries (Board of Directors, 1989-present), Easthampton Community Center (Board of Directors, 1991), and the Democratic State Committee (1989-present). She was the Massachusetts State Treasurer from 1999 through 2003. She was the Democratic Party nominee in the Massachusetts gubernatorial election in 2002, but she lost in the general election to Mitt Romney.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in three series as follows:

Series I. Enacted Legislation, 1991-1994

Series II. Legislation, 1989-1994

Series III. Subject Files, 1988-1994

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The materials are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Received from Shannon P. O'Brien, 1995.

Series Description and Container List

Series I. Enacted Legislation, 1991-1994

Scope and Content

This series includes legislation that has been enacted into law.

Arrangement

The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by committee name and, within each committee, alphabetically by subject.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	1	Commerce and Labor: Business Improvement Districts (S.61)	1992-1994
1	2	Commerce and Labor: Economic Development Incentives (S.1500)	1992-1993
1	3	Commerce and Labor: Unemployment Insurance Bill (H.6088)	1992
1	4	Commerce and Labor: Unit Pricing (S.4464 and S.4465)	1993
1	5	Commerce and Labor: Whistleblower Bill (S.1695 and S.1587)	1992-1994
1	6	Education, Arts and Humanities: Student Check-off Lobby Fees, (S.312)	1993
1	7	Election Laws: Reducing Reporting Requirements of Certain Candidates (H.1989)	1993-1994
1	8-10	Insurance: Nurse Anesthetist Services Reimbursement (S.650)	1987-1994
1	11	Judiciary: Legal Proceedings Involving Children Needing Care (H.6004)	1992
1	12	Local Affairs: Agricultural Provisions of Zoning Enabling Act (S.865)	1993-1994

1	13	Local Affairs: Holyoke Geriatric Authority (H.5124)	1993
1	14	Local Affairs: Holyoke Park Land Transfer (H.4694)	1993-1994
1	15	Local Affairs: Municipal Use of Property Damage Payments (H.1951)	1991-1992
1	16	Natural Resources and Agriculture: Equine Activity Liability (H. 3767)	1991-1992
1	17	Natural Resources and Agriculture: Hampton Ponds Sewer (H. 5406)	1994
1	18	Public Safety: Amateur Boxing (H.5321)	1992-1993
1	19	Public Service: Health Insurance for Certain Public Employees (S.1605)	1994
1	20	Public Service: Holyoke Fire Department Promotional Examinations (H.5075)	1993
1	21	State Administration: Koloski Land (H.1604)	1992
1	22	Transportation: American Legion Memorial Bridge, Chicopee (H.4629)	1993

Series II. Legislation, 1989-1994

Scope and Content

This series includes legislation for which there is no clear indication of enactment.

Arrangement

The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by committee name and, within each committee, alphabetically by subject.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	23	Banks and Banking: Deposit Insurance	1991-1994
1	24	Commerce and Labor: Jurisdiction of Labor Relations Commission (H.853)	1994
1	25	Counties: Dog License Fee (H.855)	1993-1994

1	26	Counties: Hampton County Registry of Deeds (H.2761)	1993
1	27	Counties: Registry of Deeds Computerization (H.3723)	1994
1	28	Counties: Second Assistant Register of Deeds (S.115 and S.116)	1994
1	29	Counties: State Grants to Counties (S.120)	1992-1994
1	30	Counties: Westfield District Courthouse (S.1709)	1993-1994
1	31	Criminal Justice: Leaving the Scene of an Accident Penalties (S.286)	1991-1994
1	32	Criminal Justice: Telecommunications Fraud (S.1766)	1993-1994
1	33	Education: Career Incentive Pay Program (S.247)	1988-1994
1	34	Education: Commonwealth Service Trust Program (H.4645)	1993
1	35	Education: Discipline Definition for Special Education Students (S.290)	1993
1	36	Education: Medicaid Funds for School Districts (S.1493)	1992-1993
1	37	Education: School Busing (S.288)	1991-1993
1	38	Election Laws: Reporting Requirements (H.1996)	1993
1	39	Government Regulations: Electric Company Rate Increases (S.396)	1993-1994
1	40	Government Regulations: Public Utilities Commission (H.2775)	1994
1	41	Government Regulations: Teletheatres, Dog and Horse Racing (H.1492)	1992-1994
1	42	Health Care: Administration of Medications in Schools (S.401)	1991-1993
1	43	Health Care: Birth Defects Registry (H. 2006)	1993
1	44	Health Care: Children's Access to Health Care (H.3203)	1993
1	45	Health Care: Closure of Western Massachusetts Hospital (S.1504)	1993

1	46	Health Care: Hospice Services Insurance Coverage (H.4672)	1994
1	47	Health Care: Nurse Practitioners (S.457)	1993
1	48	Health Care: Public Access to Comparative Health Data (H.935)	1994
1	49	Health Care: Reproductive Health Registry (H.2004)	1993
1	50	Health Care: Strip Unit Dosage of Medications (S.451)	1994
1	51	Housing and Urban Development: Housing Authority Maintenance Employee Salaries (H.1898)	1990-1992
1	52	Housing and Urban Development: MDC Advisory Board (H.1897)	1991-1992
1	53	Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Department of Mental Health (S.563)	1993
1	54	Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Department of Mental Health Elderly Services (2978)	1993
1	55	Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Educare Program (S.582)	1990-1994
1	56	Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Elderly Home Care Services (S.577)	1992-1994
1	57	Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Purchase of Workshop Commodities and Services (H.2452)	1992-1993
1	58	Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Substance Abuse Counselors (H.4734)	1993-1994
1	59	Human Services and Elderly Affairs: Thumbprint ID Cards, Welfare Patients (S.581)	1992-1994
1	60	Insurance: AIDS/HIV Coverage (S.651)	1994
1	61	Insurance: Automobile Classification of Risks (S.654)	1990-1993
1	62	Insurance: Automobile Insurance Project, Hampden/Worcester Counties (S.633)	1993

1	63	Insurance: Clearing Corporations and Federal Book-Entry System (S.651)	1993
1	64	Insurance: Continuation of Health Insurance Coverage (S.653)	1992-1993
1	65	Insurance: Dental (S.664)	1994
1	66	Insurance: Health Insurance, Alternative Approaches (H.3042)	1990-1992
2	67	Insurance: Health Insurance for Public School Teachers (S.665)	1992-1994
2	68	Insurance: Home Care Coverage for Certain Children (S.666)	1989-1994
2	69	Insurance: Insurance Policy Benefit Regulation (H.3046)	1992
2	70	Insurance: Life Insurance Beneficiaries (H.752)	1991-1992
2	71	Insurance: Long Term Care Insurance (S.647 and H.3428)	1992-1994
2	72	Insurance: Massachusetts Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association (S.652)	1993
2	73	Insurance: Medex Freeze (6-month) (S.1820)	1992-1994
2	74	Insurance: Medicare Supplemental Insurance (S.646)	1994
2	75	Insurance: Notice of Cancellation of Health Benefits (S.662)	1992-1994
2	76	Insurance: Prohibition of Insurance Discrimination (H.1920)	1987-1992
2	77	Insurance: Regulation of Individual Health Insurance and Market Practices (H.3424)	1993-1994
2	78	Insurance: Small Business Health Insurance (H.3033)	1992
2	79	Insurance: Small Group Insurance Reform (H.3045)	1992
2	80	Insurance: Uninsured Motor Vehicle Reduction (H.3048)	1992
2	81	Judiciary: Alimony and Assignment of Property (S.826)	1993-1994
2	82	Judiciary: Civil Liability Exemption of Police Chiefs (H.4521)	1991-1992
2	83	Judiciary: Clarification of Child Abuse and Adoption	1991-1992

		Procedures (H.4712)	
2	84	Judiciary: Criminal Proceeding Against Transferred Juveniles (S.773)	1993-1994
2	85	Judiciary: Curb Abuse of Domestic Violence Laws (S.1599)	1994
2	86	Judiciary: Custody of Children of Divorced Parents (S.1598)	1993-1994
2	87	Judiciary: Domestic Violence Record Keeping (S.1728)	1992
2	88	Judiciary: Family Support Enforcement Act (S.1613)	1993
2	89	Judiciary: Mediation Services Trust Fund (S.827)	1991-1992
2	90	Judiciary: Notice of Presentment, John R. Arden Petition (H.4905)	1991-1992
2	91	Judiciary: Profits From Crime (S.752)	1993-1994
2	92	Judiciary: Roller Skating Rink Owner Liability (H.3642)	1993-1994
2	93	Judiciary: Title Defects (S.825)	1994
2	94	Local Affairs: Easthampton Town Charter (H.5456)	1991-1992
2	95	Local Affairs: Open Air Vending, Holyoke (H.4852)	1994
2	96	Local Affairs: Revenue Bonds, Holyoke Gas and Electric (H4752)	1991-1994
2	97	Natural Resources and Agriculture: Clean Water (H.2834)	1993
2	98	Natural Resources and Agriculture: Environmental Protection (S.2833)	1993
2	99	Natural Resources and Agriculture: Landfills (H.3053, H.3054, H.3055)	1993
2	100	Natural Resources and Agriculture: Landowner Protection, Hazardous Waste (S. 967)	1993
2	101	Natural Resources and Agriculture: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Finances (S.1600)	1990-1994
2	102	Natural Resources and Agriculture: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Rate Methodology (S.1000)	1994

2	103	Public Safety: Domestic Violence (S.1050)	1993-1994
2	104	Public Safety: Firearm License Eligibility (S.1125)	1989-1994
2	105	Public Safety: Offender Reimbursement Study (H.2088)	1994
2	106	Public Safety: Police/Fire Stations Loan Program (S.1130)	1993-1994
2	107	Public Safety: Police Pursuit Legislation (H.4765)	1991-1992
2	108	Public Safety: Protection of Resident Licenses (H.4356)	1993
2	109	Public Safety: Protection of Victims of Crime	1993
2	110	Public Safety: Veteran's License Plates (S.1074)	1992-1993
2	111	Public Safety: Volleyball License Plates (S.1126)	1994
2	112	Public Service: Angel Morrero, Civil Service Examination (H.4667)	1994
2	113	Public Service: Career Incentive Plan for Teachers (S.1165)	1994
2	114	Public Service: Collective Bargaining Records Confidentiality (H.3488)	1993-1994
2	115	Public Service: Creditable Service in Public Higher Education (S.1627)	1992-1994
2	116	Public Service: Creditable Service for Retirement, Unpaid School Committee (H.4680)	1993-1994
2	117	Public Service: Early Retirement, Higher Education Employees (H.3288)	1994
2	118	Public Service: Group Health Insurance for Public Employees (H2516)	1992-1994
2	119	Public Service: Health Insurance Payments, Public Employees (H.318)	1993
2	120	Public Service: Municipal Health Insurance, Alternative Approaches (H.3834)	1993
2	121	Public Service: Nun's Bill, Retirement Credit (S.1215)	1994
2	122	Public Service: Retirement Benefits Court Personnel	1994

		(H.4591)	
2	123	Public Service: Retirement Option Regulation (S.1214)	1993-1994
2	124	Public Service: Retirement System Withdrawal Extension (H.1576)	1994
2	125	State Administration: Holyoke Merry-Go-Round Inc. (S.1331)	1993-1994
2	126	State Administration: Northampton State Hospital Closing (S.1249)	1993
2	127	State Administration: Privatization of State Services (S.1642)	1993
2	128	State Administration: Quality Infrastructure (S1232)	1992-1993
2	129	Taxation: Income Tax Exemption for Veteran's Retirement Pay (H.4961)	1993
2	130	Taxation: Interest Income (S.1359)	1992-1993
2	131	Taxation: Investment Tax Credit Law (H.3884)	1989-1994
2	132	Taxation: Fuel Excise Tax Exemption for Municipal Vehicles	1993
2	133	Taxation: Sales Tax Exemption on Interstate Trucking (S.1355)	1992-1993
2	134	Taxation: Sales Tax Exemption on Pollution Controls and Safety Equipment (H.3871)	1993-1994
2	135-136	Taxation: Tangible Property (S.1450)	1992-1994
2	137	Taxation: Tax Credit for Employee Training (S.1403)	1993
2	138	Taxation: Tax Credit for Job Creation (H.3875)	1993-1994
2	139	Taxation: Tax Credit for Recycling (S.1374)	1988-1993
2	140	Taxation: Tax Credit for Recycling and Industrial Development (S.1366)	1993-1994
2	141	Taxation: Welfare Recipient's Income Tax Refunds (S.1354)	1993
2	142	Transportation: Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project	1994

		Expenditure Review (S.1502)	
2	143	Transportation: Holyoke/South Hadley (H.1597 of 1993)	1991-1994
2	144	Transportation: Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission Reimbursements (S.1811)	1994
2	145	Transportation: Turnpike Toll Resolution	1992
2	146	Transportation: Veterans Memorial Bridge, Easthampton (S.1441)	1993
2	147	Ways and Means: Hampden County Debt (S.1858)	1994
2	148	Ways and Means: Health and Educational Facilities Authority (HEFA) (S.1535)	1993-1994
2	149	Ways and Means: Holyoke Community College Settlement (S.1574)	1993
2	150	Ways and Means: Medicare Supplement Insurance (MEDICAP) (S.1515)	1993
2	151	Ways and Means: Westfield State College Emergency Electric Repairs, (S.1839)	1994

Series III. Subject Files, 1988-1994

Scope and Content

This series includes materials related to domestic violence, health care, and child abuse.

Arrangement

The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
2	152	Child Abuse: Correspondence	1989-1994
2	153	Child Abuse: Legislation	1992-1993
2	154	Child Abuse: Newspaper clippings	1988,

			1993
2	155	Child Abuse: Proposed "Reporting" Law	1994
2	156	Child Abuse: Reference Material	1989- 1993
2	157	Domestic Violence Telecommunication Center	1993
2	158	Home Health Care	1992