

HOUSE No. 1120

By Mr. Roberts of Braintree (by request), petition of Wallace E. Crowley that the office of Reporter of Decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court be abolished. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Three.

AN ACT TO ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF REPORTER OF DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would
2 tend to defeat its purpose, therefore it is hereby
3 declared to be an emergency law, and necessary for
4 the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the
same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter two hundred and twenty-
2 one of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, is
3 hereby amended by striking out section sixty-three,
4 as amended, and by striking out sections sixty-four,
5 sixty-five, sixty-six, sixty-seven and sixty-eight.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter five of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the three follow-
3 ing new sections:—

4 *Section 19.* The secretary of state shall contract
5 on or before the fifteenth day of January of each

6 year with an existing law book publisher to collate
7 all decisions of the justices of the supreme judicial
8 court upon all questions of law argued by counsel or
9 submitted to said court and publish the same with
10 suitable head notes, tables of cases and indexes.
11 Said reports shall be true reports and shall contain
12 a sufficiently accurate statement of the facts to show
13 exactly what was directly before the court for decision;
14 but such statement shall not unnecessarily increase
15 the size or number of the volumes of reports. The
16 reports of all such decisions shall be published within
17 sixty days after the date rendered and shall have a
18 permanent volume number and page number to
19 conform to existing Massachusetts Reports.

20 *Section 20.* The printed reports provided for in
21 the foregoing section shall be of size, style and color
22 to conform as near as possible to the existing reports
23 of the supreme judicial court and shall be styled
24 "Massachusetts Reports" and shall be suitably
25 numbered by volume and page without reference to
26 the name of any reporter or publisher except on the
27 title page the name of the publisher and the mailing
28 address of such publisher shall be given.

29 *Section 21.* The secretary of state shall within
30 forty-eight hours after January twentieth of each
31 year notify in writing over his signature the clerk of
32 the supreme judicial court of the commonwealth
33 the name of the law book publisher he has contracted
34 with, the duration of the contract and the street and
35 number and city or town and state where such pub-
36 lisher is located. The clerk of the supreme judicial
37 court for the commonwealth shall furnish said pub-
38 lisher with two copies of all briefs and other papers
39 used in argument before, or in submitting the case

40 to, the supreme judicial court within three days after
41 the decision in the case is rendered, and said clerk shall
42 afford the public due facilities for the examination
43 of all papers at all times during office hours and all
44 decisions shall be available to the public for examina-
45 tion and copy as soon as rendered. It shall be the
46 duty of said clerk to arrange so that one person shall
47 not unreasonably delay any member of the bar of
48 this court from access as aforesaid to said papers and
49 decisions.

