

SENATE No. 581

[Senate, No. 581. — Substituted by amendment (Richardson) for House Bill No. 1623, amended.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF LIBRARIANS AND REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

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 13 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 47, as
3 amended, the three following sections, under the
4 caption BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF LIBRARIANS: —
5 *Section 48.* There shall be a board of registration
6 of librarians, in sections forty-eight to fifty, inclusive,
7 called the board, to be appointed by the governor,
8 with the advice and consent of the council, con-
9 sisting of five members, citizens of the common-
10 wealth, each of whom shall have been engaged in
11 the practice of librarianship for a period of ten
12 years or more prior to his appointment, and, except
13 in the cases of members originally appointed to
14 the board, shall hold a professional librarian's
15 certificate of registration issued by the board. No

16 member of the board shall belong to the faculty
17 of any library school. As the term of office of a
18 member of the board expires, his successor, qualified
19 as aforesaid, shall be appointed by the governor
20 with the advice and consent of the council to serve
21 for five years. Each member shall continue to
22 serve until the qualification of his successor. The
23 governor, with the advice and consent of the council,
24 may fill any vacancy in the board for the unexpired
25 portion of the term.

26 *Section 49.* The board shall hold at least four
27 regular meetings each year, and may hold special
28 meetings as required. Time, place and notice of all
29 meetings shall be as required by the rules of the
30 board. At the first meeting of each year the board
31 shall choose from its own members a chairman, a
32 vice-chairman and a secretary. A quorum shall
33 consist of three members.

34 *Section 50.* The members of the board shall
35 receive no compensation from the commonwealth,
36 but each member shall receive from the common-
37 wealth the expenses necessarily incurred by him
38 in connection with his official duties, including
39 attendance at meetings of the board.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 112 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 87JJ,
3 as amended, the seven following sections, under
4 the caption REGISTRATION OF LIBRARIANS: —

5 *Section 87KK.* The following words and phrases
6 used in sections eighty-seven KK to eighty-seven QQ,
7 inclusive, shall, unless the context otherwise re-
8 quires, have the following meanings: —

9 “Board”, the board of registration of librarians

10 established by section forty-eight of chapter thirteen.

11 "Librarian", a person practicing library work.

12 "Professional librarian", a person qualified by
13 education, training, or study and experience to
14 practice library work in a position requiring knowl-
15 edge of books and of library aims and techniques
16 equivalent to that attained through graduation
17 from a library school accredited by the American
18 Library Association.

19 "Subprofessional librarian", a person in the
20 opinion of the board qualified to engage in the neces-
21 sary library routines involved in the acquiring and
22 circulation of books but not qualified as a profes-
23 sional librarian.

24 *Section 87LL.* The board shall make such rules
25 and regulations not inconsistent with law as are
26 necessary and proper for the conduct of its duties,
27 including issuance, renewal or revocation of certifi-
28 cates, and to provide for hearings in the case of
29 applicants whose requests for certificates have been
30 refused or whose certificates have been suspended or
31 revoked, in cases where application for such hearing
32 has been made to the board. The board shall adopt
33 and shall use an official seal on certificates issued
34 by it and on other official documents of the board
35 as directed by it.

36 *Section 87MM.* The secretary of the board shall
37 account for all moneys received by the board and
38 shall pay the same to the state treasurer. The
39 secretary shall give to the state treasurer a bond
40 in such sum and with such securities as may from
41 time to time be required by the board for the faithful
42 performance of his duties.

43 *Section 87NN.* The board may expend, subject

44 to appropriation, such sums for clerical assistance
45 and incidentals as may be necessary for the proper
46 performance of its work.

47 *Section 8700.* The board shall: —

48 (1) Keep an official record of all its meetings.

49 (2) Issue, suspend, revoke or renew certificates
50 of registration to properly qualified persons.

51 (3) Keep a roster showing the names and last
52 known business addresses of all persons holding
53 certificates of registration and furnish the informa-
54 tion contained therein to the public on request.

55 (4) Furnish information as to the requirements
56 for registration upon request and without charge
57 to all prospective applicants.

58 (5) Hold examinations at least quarterly if there
59 are applicants for examination.

60 *Section 87PP.* The board shall issue a certificate
61 of registration as a professional librarian to any
62 person who requests registration upon a form pre-
63 scribed by the board and who fulfills one or both
64 of the following requirements: —

65 (1) Graduation from a library school accredited
66 by the American Library Association or the passing
67 of an examination which, with due consideration of
68 education, professional training, practical experience
69 and demonstrated ability, shall satisfy the board
70 that the candidate has the qualifications required
71 for the satisfactory practice of library work.

72 (2) The holding of an unexpired certificate issued
73 by the proper authority in any state other than this
74 commonwealth in which the requirements for
75 certification are satisfactory to the board.

76 The board shall issue a certificate of registration
77 as a subprofessional librarian to any person who

78 requests registration upon a form prescribed by
79 the board and, in the opinion of the board, is qualified
80 to practice library work in a position not requiring
81 the educational and other qualifications for registra-
82 tion as a professional librarian.

83 *Section 87QQ.* Each professional librarian, at
84 the time of his original registration under section
85 eighty-seven PP, shall pay to the board the sum
86 of five dollars, and annually thereafter shall pay
87 to the board the sum of one dollar, for the certifi-
88 cate of registration. No fee shall be charged by
89 the board for the issuance of certificates to sub-
90 professional librarians. Whoever, on and after
91 January first, nineteen hundred and forty-eight,
92 unless such person is the lawful holder of a certifi-
93 cate of registration referred to in section eighty-
94 seven PP and in full force and effect, designates
95 or represents himself as a professional librarian
96 shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty
97 dollars.

1 SECTION 3. Of the members of the board of
2 registration of librarians first appointed under
3 authority of section forty-eight of chapter thirteen
4 of the General Laws, inserted by section one of
5 this act, one shall be appointed for the term of one
6 year, one for the term of two years, one for the term
7 of three years, one for the term of four years, and
8 one for the term of five years, from October first,
9 nineteen hundred and forty-seven.

1 SECTION 4. Any person who, upon the effective
2 date of this act, is employed in a position defined
3 as that of professional librarian in section eighty-

4 seven KK of chapter one hundred and twelve of the
5 General Laws, inserted by section two of this act,
6 if he applies for such certificate within two years
7 after such effective date, and pays the necessary fee
8 for such certificate, shall receive from the board of
9 registration of librarians a certificate of registration
10 as a professional librarian; and, any provision in
11 section eighty-seven QQ of said chapter one hundred
12 and twelve to the contrary notwithstanding, any
13 such person may, until the expiration of the period
14 limited by this section, continue to practice his
15 profession even though he does not hold such a
16 certificate.



