

# SENATE . . . . No. 292

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To accompany the petition of the Boston Real Estate Board, by Ray Hofford, executive vice president, for legislation to further regulate the installation, use and maintenance of revolving doors, so called, in certain buildings. Military Affairs and Public Safety.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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### AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE INSTALLATION, USE AND MAINTENANCE OF REVOLVING DOORS, SO CALLED, IN CERTAIN BUILDINGS.

1    *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act will  
2 tend to defeat its purposes, which in part are to in-  
3 sure the immediate operation of certain provisions of  
4 law permitting the use of revolving doors under  
5 certain circumstances as set forth therein, and also  
6 to make certain that prosecutions for alleged viola-  
7 tions of law relative to the use of such doors may not  
8 be prematurely commenced, therefore it is hereby  
9 declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the  
10 immediate preservation of the public safety and  
11 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 143 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking out section 21B, as in-

3 sserted by chapter 654 of the acts of 1947, and insert-  
4 ing in place thereof the following section: —

5 *Section 21B.* No revolving door shall be installed  
6 or permitted to remain in any asylum, auditorium,  
7 church, dance hall, motion picture or other theatre,  
8 school or hospital, or as the immediate means of  
9 egress from any room or space within a building in  
10 which room or space more than three hundred persons  
11 congregate for any purpose. Any revolving door in  
12 use on January first, nineteen hundred and forty-  
13 eight, the continued use of which is not forbidden in  
14 the preceding sentence, may be retained; provided,  
15 that the enclosure of such revolving door has a diame-  
16 ter of not less than six feet and such revolving door is  
17 of a collapsible type in which the individual wings are  
18 maintained in the normal revolving position and  
19 which are so designed and constructed that each wing  
20 is independently supported and such wing is provided  
21 with a safety release of noncorrosive metal incorpo-  
22 rated in such support, which safety release is so  
23 designed that simultaneous outward pressure exerted  
24 by persons of ordinary strength on both sides of the  
25 door pivot will cause such wings to instantly fold  
26 back on themselves, like the leaves of a book, in the  
27 direction of egress, and will provide two outside  
28 passageways, thereby permitting easy egress through  
29 the vestibule.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 143 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking out section 21C, inserted  
3 by section 2, of chapter 654 of the acts of 1947, and  
4 inserting in place thereof the following section: —

5 *Section 21C.* In buildings hereafter erected in

6 which revolving doors are not prohibited under sec-  
7 tion twenty-one B, or in existing buildings in which  
8 the method of egress is altered, a collapsible revolving  
9 door as described in section twenty-one B shall be  
10 credited with fifty per cent of the required means of  
11 egress, only to the extent equal to the clear unob-  
12 structed width of the passageways through the vesti-  
13 bule when the wings are in a collapsed position,  
14 excepting such collapsible revolving doors of a type  
15 aforementioned, with a minimum diameter of six  
16 feet, may be used to provide the total required width  
17 of egress where such revolving doors serve a ground  
18 floor area only and when the occupancy is two hun-  
19 dred persons or less. The commissioner of public  
20 safety may approve the installation on exit doors  
21 from a bank, trust company, jewelry store, or any  
22 other store devoted to a single similar use where  
23 articles of unusual value or moneys in large quantities  
24 are kept, of a locking device which may be operated  
25 electrically from the interior of the building, and  
26 which shall be used only in an emergency. Standard  
27 locking devices shall be permitted to be used on  
28 revolving doors where there are other sufficient means  
29 of egress. All revolving doors shall be cleaned,  
30 lubricated, and maintained in proper working order.

1 SECTION 3. No prosecution against any person for  
2 an alleged violation of any provision of sections  
3 twenty-one B or twenty-one C, or both, of chapter  
4 one hundred and forty-three of the General Laws, as  
5 in force immediately prior to the effective date of this  
6 act, shall be commenced or maintained; nor shall  
7 any action for a violation of any provision of said

8 sections, as amended by this act, alleged to have  
9 occurred within ninety days after the effective date  
10 hereof, be commenced or maintained.

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its  
2 passage.