

To accompany the petition of William H. Harrison, Jr., the Adjutant General, for legislation relative to the care, custody and preservation of certain flags carried in time of war by military or naval organizations and to make the State Superintendent of Buildings the custodian thereof. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROPER CARE, CUSTODY AND PRESERVATION OF FLAGS CARRIED IN TIME OF WAR BY ORGANIZATIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS MEN OR WOMEN IN THE MILITARY OF NAVAL SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO MAKE THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDINGS THE CUSTODIAN THEREOF.

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 8 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 17 the following sec-
3 tion:—

4 *Section 17A.* The state superintendent of buildings
5 is hereby designated as the custodian of the flags car-
6 ried in time of war by organizations of Massachusetts
7 men or women in the military or naval service of the
8 United States, which flags are now in the possession
9 of the commonwealth or which in the future may come
10 into such possession.

11 He shall exercise proper care, custody and preserva-
12 tion of such flags, and shall keep on file at all times
13 a record open to public inspection, containing such
14 details concerning such flags and including such picto-
15 rial representations as he may deem proper, and shall
16 give an account thereof each year in his annual report.

17 He shall have supervision over the Hall of Flags,
18 and all cases and cabinets therein, and over all cases
19 and cabinets in Doric Hall or elsewhere in the state
20 house wherein any such flags as are referred to herein
21 are now or may in the future be on public display.

22 He may provide proper streamers and marks of in-
23 signia for identification of any of the flags referred to
24 herein. The standard given to the regiment of Massa-
25 chusetts volunteers in Mexico by General Winfield
26 Scott, and now in the quarters of the senate, shall be
27 retained therein, and he shall cause a proper case or
28 cabinet to be provided therefor. In the event that
29 other flags of the Mexican War, the Civil War, the
30 Spanish-American War or World War I shall come into
31 the possession of the commonwealth, he shall cause
32 suitable provision to be made for their preservation
33 with the other flags of the respective units involved.
34 In the event that flags of World War II shall come into
35 the possession of the commonwealth, he shall cause
36 proper cases or cabinets to be provided therefor, either
37 in the Hall of Flags or in Doric Hall.

38 The flags referred to herein shall not be removed
39 from the state house without the express permission of
40 the general court.

1 SECTION 2. The adjutant general shall, forthwith,
2 turn over to the superintendent of buildings all records,
3 documents, memoranda and other papers relating to
4 the Hall of Flags, and said cases and cabinets, and flags
5 now in his custody.

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