
By Mr. Donahue, petition of Michael J. Donohue for legislation to increase authority for the administrative committee of the probate courts. Legal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO INCREASE AUTHORITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PROBATE COURTS.

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

1 Chapter 215 of the General Laws, as most recently amended
2 by chapter 330 of the acts of 1934, is hereby further amended
3 by striking out section 30A and inserting in place thereof the
4 following section: —

5 *Section 30A.* There shall be an administrative committee
6 of the probate courts, hereinafter called the committee, which
7 shall consist of three judges thereof, assigned to service there-
8 on by the chief justice of the supreme judicial court for such
9 period of times as he may deem advisable. The committee shall
10 be authorized to visit any probate court, as a committee or by
11 subcommittee, to require uniform practice and procedure, to
12 prescribe forms and records and the keeping thereof, and shall
13 have general powers of superintendence, subject to the general
14 superintendence of the Supreme Judicial Court as provided in
15 section 30, chapter 211 of the General Laws, over all the pro-
16 bate courts, their registers, assistant registers and other offi-
17 cers and clerks, but except as otherwise provided by law, shall
18 have no power to appoint any such officers. The committee
19 may regulate the assignment of the probate judges in each
20 county, the sessions and sittings of the judges, the time and
21 places for holding such sessions and sittings of the judges, the

22 time and places for holding such sessions and sittings, and may
23 require such records to be kept as may generally assist in the
24 determination of the nature and volume and the time required
25 to complete all the work of such probate courts. To promote
26 co-ordination in the administration of the probate courts the
27 committee may from time to time call conferences of any or
28 all the judges thereof, or of other officials connected therewith,
29 and the traveling expenses of such judges or officials for at-
30 tending such conferences, and also the necessary expenses of
31 the members of the committee incurred in the performance of
32 their duties as aforesaid, shall, subject to the approval of the
33 governor and council be paid from the state treasury. The
34 committee shall from time to time establish forms for annual
35 reports of the work of the several probate courts and regis-
36 tries of probate; and the several registries of probate shall an-
37 nually, on or before October first, prepare and file with the
38 committee uniform reports of the work of said courts and reg-
39 istries during the preceding court year.