
By Mr. White of Boston, petition of W. Paul White, Raymond L. Flynn and another for legislation to prohibit the sale of term papers and other written assignments for aid to students in educational institutions. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF DISSERTATIONS, THESES, AND TERM PAPERS.

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 266 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 89 the following section :—

3 *Section 89A.* Unlawful sale of dissertations, theses and term
4 papers.

5 No person shall sell or offer for sale to any person enrolled in a
6 university, college, academy, school or other educational
7 institution within this commonwealth any assistance in the
8 preparation, research or writing of a dissertation, thesis, term
9 paper, essay, report or other written assignment intended for
10 submission to such educational institution in fulfillment of the
11 requirements for a degree, diploma, certificate or course of
12 study.

13 No persons shall sell or offer for sale any dissertation, thesis,
14 term paper, essay, report or other written assignment to any
15 person who, sells or offers for sale any such dissertation, thesis,
16 term paper, essay, report or other written assignment to any
17 person enrolled in a university, college, academy, school or other
18 educational institution within this commonwealth for submission
19 to such educational institution in fulfillment of the requirements
20 for a degree, diploma, certificate or course of study.

21 Nothing herein contained shall prevent such educational
22 institution or any member of its faculty or staff, from offering

23 courses, instruction, counseling or tutoring for research or
24 writing as part of a curriculum or other program conducted by
25 such educational institution. Nor shall this section prevent any
26 educational institution or any member of its faculty or staff from
27 authorizing students to use statistical, computer, or any other
28 services which may be required or permitted by such educational
29 institution in the preparation, research or writing of a disserta-
30 tion, thesis, term paper, essay, report or other written assign-
31 ment. Nor shall this section prevent tutorial assistance rendered
32 by other persons which does not include the preparation,
33 research or writing of a dissertation, thesis, term paper, essay,
34 report or other written assignment intended for submission to
35 such educational institution in fulfillment of the requirements
36 for a degree, diploma, certificate, or course of study. Nor shall
37 any person be prevented by the provisions of this section from
38 rendering services for a fee which shall be limited to the typing,
39 transcription or reproduction of a manuscript.

40 Nothing contained within this section shall prevent any person
41 from selling or offering for sale a publication or other written
42 material which shall have been registered under the United States
43 laws of copyright, provided, however, that the owner of such
44 copyright shall have given his authorization or approval for such
45 sale and provided further that such publication or other written
46 material shall not be intended for submission as a dissertation,
47 thesis, term paper, essay report or other written assignment to
48 such educational institution within this commonwealth in fulfill-
49 ment of the requirements for a degree, diploma, certificate or
50 course of study.

51 Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall be
52 punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.
53 Whoever violates the provisions of this section may be enjoined
54 therefrom by a petition in equity brought by the attorney
55 general or by the trustees of any university, college, academy,
56 school or other educational institution having lawful authority in
57 this commonwealth to confer degrees, diplomas, or certificates.