

TION OF THE MERGER OF THE LOWELL TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND THE STATE COLLEGE AT LOWELL.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to remove the state college at Lowell from the jurisdiction of the board of trustees of state colleges upon the completion of the merger of said college with the Lowell Technological Institute of Massachusetts, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 14 of chapter 1175 of the acts of 1973 is hereby amended by adding the following sentence: — Section six of this act shall take effect on the date of the completion of the merger of the Lowell Technological Institute of Massachusetts and the state college at Lowell.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect as of March tenth, nineteen hundred and seventy-four. *Approved November 6, 1975.*

Chap. 676. AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN HIGH RISE BUILDINGS, AND AUTOMATIC FIRE WARNING SYSTEMS IN CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for certain changes in the law regulating building construction, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 148 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 26A, inserted by section 1 of chapter 395 of the acts of 1973, and inserting in place thereof the following section: —

Section 26A. Every building or structure of more than seventy feet in height above the mean grade shall be protected with an adequate system of automatic sprinklers in accordance with the provisions of the state building code, except that sprinklers shall not be required to be installed in patient rooms in hospitals.

The head of the fire department shall enforce the provisions of this section.

Whoever is aggrieved by the head of the fire department's interpretation, order, requirement, direction or failure to act under the provisions of this section, may, within forty-five days after the service of notice thereof, appeal from such interpretation, order, requirement, direction, or failure to act, to the board

of appeals as provided in the state building code and section twenty-three of chapter twenty-three B.

SECTION 2. Said chapter 148 is hereby further amended by striking out section 26B, inserted by section 1 of chapter 214 of the acts of 1974, and inserting in place thereof the following section: —

Section 26B. Every building or structure not exceeding seventy feet in height above the mean grade erected or substantially altered to be occupied for residential purposes shall be protected with an approved automatic fire warning system in accordance with the provisions of the state building code. Such system shall include the features of automatic smoke detection in conjunction with the approved fire detection devices.

The head of the fire department as defined in section one shall enforce the provisions of this section.

Whoever is aggrieved by the head of the fire department's interpretation, order, requirement, direction or failure to act under the provisions of this section, may, within forty-five days after the service of notice thereof, appeal from such interpretation, order, requirement, direction, or failure to act, to the board of appeals as provided in the state building code and section twenty-three of chapter twenty-three B.

SECTION 3. This act shall apply to buildings and structures the construction or substantial alteration of which began after January first, nineteen hundred and seventy-five.

Approved November 6, 1975.

Chap. 677. AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE TIME OF APPEAL AND THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH AN APPEAL MAY BE TAKEN BY AND AN ABATEMENT GRANTED TO PERSONS AGGRIEVED BY THE REFUSAL OF LOCAL ASSESSORS TO GRANT AN ABATEMENT OF TAXES ON PROPERTY.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is, in part, to facilitate appeals taken by persons aggrieved by the refusal of local assessors to grant an abatement, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 64 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 664 of the acts of 1973, is hereby further amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences: — A person aggrieved by the refusal of assessors to abate a tax on personal property at least one half