

By Mr. Coppinger of Boston, petition of Francis X. Coppinger, Gilbert W. Cox, Jr., Paul F. X. Moriarty, John S. Conway and Richard F. Finnigan that provision be made for the payment of a reward for information relative to welfare fraud. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT PROVIDING A REWARD FOR INFORMATION RELATIVE TO WELFARE FRAUD.

*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. *General.* The Commissioner of Public Welfare,  
2 or any subordinate that he may designate to perform the duties  
3 under this Act, may approve such reward as he deems suitable for  
4 information that leads to the detection and punishment of any  
5 person guilty of violating the laws of the Commonwealth  
6 governing public welfare, or conniving at the same. The rewards  
7 provided for by this Act shall be paid only in cases not otherwise  
8 provided for by law.

1 SECTION 2. *Eligibility to file claim for reward.* Any person,  
2 other than certain present or former employees of the Depart-  
3 ment of Public Welfare, as determined or limited by the next  
4 paragraph, who submits, in the manner set forth below,  
5 information relating to the violation of the laws of the  
6 Commonwealth governing public welfare, is eligible to file a  
7 claim for reward under this Act.

8 No person who was in the employ of the Department of Public  
9 Welfare at the time he came into possession of information  
10 relating to violations of the laws of the Commonwealth governing  
11 public welfare, or at the time he divulged such information, shall  
12 be eligible for reward under this section. Any other employee of  
13 the Commonwealth, or former employee of the Commonwealth,  
14 is eligible to file a claim for reward if the information submitted

15 came to his knowledge other than in the course of his official  
16 duties.

17 A claim for reward may be filed by an executor, administrator  
18 or other legal representative on behalf of a deceased informant if,  
19 prior to his death, the informant was eligible to file a claim for  
20 such reward under this section. Certified copies of the letters  
21 testamentary, letters of administration, or other similar evidence  
22 must be annexed to such a claim for reward on behalf of a  
23 deceased informant in order to show the authority of the legal  
24 representative to file the claim for reward.

1 SECTION 3. *Amount and payment of reward.* All relevant  
2 factors, including the value of the information furnished in  
3 relation to the facts developed by the investigation of the  
4 violation, shall be taken into account by the person authorized  
5 under Sec. 1 of this Act to approve awards in determining  
6 whether a reward shall be paid and, if so, the amount thereof. The  
7 amount of a reward shall represent what said person so  
8 authorized deems to be adequate compensation in the particular  
9 case, normally not to exceed ten percent of the amount that  
10 would have been paid to the person violating said public welfare  
11 laws in the year following the submission of the information.  
12 Payment of a reward will be made as promptly as the  
13 circumstances of the case permit. No person is authorized to  
14 make any offer or promise or otherwise to bind the person  
15 authorized under Sec. 1 to approve awards with respect to the  
16 payment of any reward or the amount thereof.

1 SECTION 4. *Submission of information.* Persons desiring to  
2 claim rewards under the provisions of this Act may submit  
3 information relating to violations of the laws of the Com-  
4 monwealth governing public welfare in person to the Department  
5 of Public Welfare or to the Commissioner thereof or to any  
6 subordinate that he may designate to receive such information.  
7 Such information may also be submitted in writing to any of  
8 them. If the information is submitted in person, either orally or in  
9 writing, the name and official title of the person to whom it is  
10 submitted must be included in the formal claim for reward.

11 No unauthorized person shall be advised of the identity of an  
12 informant.

1 SECTION 5. *Filing claim for reward.* An informant who  
2 intends to claim a reward under this Act should notify the person  
3 to whom he submits his information of such intention and must  
4 file a formal claim, signed with his true name, as soon after  
5 submission of the information as practicable. If other than the  
6 informant's true name was used in furnishing the information, the  
7 claimant must include with his claim satisfactory proof of his  
8 identity as that of the informant. Claim for reward under the  
9 provisions of this Act shall be made on a form prepared and  
10 supplied by the Department of Public Welfare.

The first part of the book deals with the early years of the nation, from the time of the first settlers to the end of the Revolutionary War. It covers the period of the early colonial period, the struggle for independence, and the formation of the new government.

The second part of the book deals with the period of the early republic, from the end of the Revolutionary War to the beginning of the Civil War. It covers the period of the early republic, the struggle for a stronger central government, and the expansion of the nation.

The third part of the book deals with the period of the Civil War and Reconstruction, from the beginning of the Civil War to the end of Reconstruction. It covers the period of the Civil War, the Reconstruction era, and the struggle for civil rights.