

SENATE . . . . . No. 1585

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By Mr. Buell, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1585) of Robert C. Buell for legislation to restore independence of action to the state comptroller. State Administration.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-four.

AN ACT TO RESTORE INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION TO THE  
STATE COMPTROLLER.

*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. Section 4A of chapter 7 of the General Laws,  
2 as most recently amended by chapter 579 of the acts of 1980,  
3 is hereby amended by striking out in the first sentence the  
4 words "a comptroller's division, in charge of a comptroller,  
5 who shall have the rank of deputy commissioner and shall be  
6 appointed by the governor for a term coterminus with that  
7 of the governor;"

1 SECTION 2. Said section 4A of said chapter 7 is hereby fur-  
2 ther amended by striking out in the third sentence the words  
3 "of the comptroller,"

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter 7 is hereby further amended by  
2 adding after section 4K the following: —

3 *Section 4L.* There is hereby established within but not  
4 under the control of the executive office for administration  
5 and finance a comptroller, in charge of a comptroller's divi-  
6 sion. Said comptroller shall be appointed by the governor,  
7 subject to the approval of the two branches of the general  
8 court, for a term of ten years, and shall not be eligible for re-  
9 appointment to succeed himself. Said comptroller shall hold  
10 a rank higher than any employee within the executive office  
11 of administration and finance exempting the secretary of the  
12 executive office thereof. Said comptroller shall receive a sal-  
13 ary equal to 95% of that received by the secretary of admin-

14 istration and finance, and devote his duties full time thereto.  
15 Said comptroller must have at least eight years experience in  
16 any one or more of the following professions: law, business  
17 administration, and/or public administration, and be a certi-  
18 fied public accountant.

19 The comptroller shall be the executive and administrative  
20 head of the comptroller's division and may employ such per-  
21 sons, subject to appropriation, as he may deem necessary and  
22 required to discharge the responsibilities of his office and the  
23 division.

24 The comptroller shall issue, and may from time to time  
25 amend, rules and regulations governing the style and design  
26 of requisite forms, books and ledgers of accounting used by  
27 each department, office, commission and institution of the  
28 Commonwealth. No forms, books or ledgers of accounting  
29 other than that prescribed aforementioned shall be used by  
30 any department, office, commission or institution without the  
31 prior written approval of the comptroller.