

By Mr. Mann of Hanson, petition of Charles W. Mann for legislation to provide for the sound recording of every meeting of the General Court and the disposition of such recordings. Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT TO FACILITATE THE DOCUMENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

*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. For the purpose of this act, "legislative papers  
2 and documents" means: — bills and amendments thereto, fiscal  
3 notes; introducers' bill memoranda; resolutions and amendments  
4 thereto; messages received from the governor or the other house of  
5 the legislature; transcripts, recordings, minutes or journal records  
6 of public sessions, including meetings of committees and subcom-  
7 mittees and public hearings, with the records of attendance of  
8 members thereat and records of any votes taken; final reports or  
9 recommendations and minority or dissenting reports and opinions  
10 of members of committees, subcommittees, or commissions of the  
11 legislature.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended  
2 by inserting after section 29 the following section: —

3 *Section 29A.* Sound recordings of legislative proceedings.

4 Sound recordings shall be made of every meeting of the general  
5 court and of every hearing of every standing, special and interim  
6 committee of the general court, or subcommittee thereof. The  
7 sound recordings required under this section are part of the legisla-  
8 tive papers and documents of the general court or committee and  
9 shall be subject to the provisions of section 22.

1 SECTION 3. Section 19, chapter 9 of the General Laws, as  
2 amended by section 1 of chapter 929 of the acts of 1971, is hereby  
3 further amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in  
4 place thereof the following paragraph: —

5 The state secretary shall take charge of and keep on file all  
6 legislative papers and documents, and those presented to it as  
7 defined in section one of this act; and shall classify and arrange all  
8 such papers and documents in his charge in a manner that he  
9 considers best suited to carry out the efficient and economical  
10 utilization, maintenance, preservation and disposition of the papers  
11 and documents. The archivist of the commonwealth shall assist  
12 him in the performance of this work. The state secretary shall  
13 deliver to the archivist all legislative papers and documents in his  
14 possession when such records have been classified and arranged.  
15 The archivist shall thereafter be official custodian of the records so  
16 delivered.

1 SECTION 4. Said chapter 9 is hereby further amended by in-  
2 serting after section 19 the following section: —

3 *Section 19A.* Retention, destruction, sale or other disposition  
4 of legislative papers and documents.

5 The state secretary and the archivist, having first obtained au-  
6 thority from the governor and council, may establish and from  
7 time to time may revise a schedule that shall govern the retention,  
8 destruction, sale or other disposition of legislative papers and  
9 documents delivered to and in the custody of the archivist under  
10 section two and nineteen. The state secretary and the archivist,  
11 after having obtained the proper authorization, may also destroy,  
12 sell or otherwise dispose of such documents and papers as in their  
13 judgement have no value to the state or public and are no longer  
14 necessary under or pursuant to any statute requiring their creation  
15 or maintenance or affecting their use. If the legislative papers and  
16 documents are sold, then the proceeds thereof shall be paid to the  
17 commonwealth.