

By Ms. Bunte of Boston, petition of Doris Bunte, Melvin H. King, Royal L. Bolling, Sr., Royal L. Bolling, Jr., and Barney Frank relative to establishing a bureau of public information in the Executive Office for Administration and Finance. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT CREATING A BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION.

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. Chapter 7 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 30 T the following section: —
3 *Section 30U.* There shall be a bureau of public information
4 in the executive office for administration and finance, hereinafter
5 called the bureau, which shall be responsible for the dissemina-
6 tion of information regarding all public programs and services
7 provided in the public interest, consumer service information,
8 and examination and employment information available to
9 citizens of the commonwealth by its various departments and
10 agencies. The duties of the bureau shall include:

11 1.) Review of current methods of providing information on
12 services to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

13 2.) Preparation of a complete and accurate listing of all public
14 service programs and employee opportunity information
15 available to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Bureau is
16 required to maintain an up-to-date listing of such services.

17 3.) Establishment of guidelines and administrative methods
18 which will insure the widest and most efficient dissemination of
19 such information.

20 4.) Preparation and implementation of a plan to utilize the

21 radio, television, and other communication mediums in dis-
22 seminating public service and employment opportunity informa-
23 tion.

24 5.) Dissemination of information regarding public employ-
25 ment opportunity. The bureau shall insure that such publication
26 of information is in strict compliance with Federal and State laws
27 and executive policies of the Commonwealth regarding equal
28 employment opportunity.

29 The bureau shall consist of a director, who shall be appointed
30 by the governor, and such other experts and assistants, not to
31 exceed seven in number, as the director may deem necessary to
32 carry out the duties of the bureau; provided however that
33 appointments to be made under this paragraph shall not be
34 subject to chapter thirty-one or to section nine A of chapter
35 thirty. The director may expend for legal, investigative, clerical
36 or other assistance and expenses, such sums as may be appropri-
37 ated therefor. Each secretary having charge of an executive office
38 established by chapter six A or seven shall provide the bureau
39 with any information appropriate to carrying out the responsi-
40 bilities of the bureau.

41 All broadcast stations in the Commonwealth must afford the
42 Bureau of Public Information reasonable opportunity for the
43 mass dissemination of information vital to the interest, necessity,
44 and convenience of the public in compliance with 73.670 (2) of
45 the Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations
46 for public service announcements as defined by the FCC in Note
47 4 of 73.670 (2).

48 For the purposes of this act public service announcements
49 shall be defined as:

50 a. program services information — providing the information
51 that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is sponsoring specific
52 programs or services in the public interest and how one can check
53 his eligibility.

54 b. consumer service information — factual, legal statements,
55 non-editorial in nature, or definitions on consumer protection
56 items to prevent exploitation of the citizen due to a lack of
57 information on consumer protection.

58 c. employment information — all announcements of public

59 employment vacancies in the service of the Commonwealth and
60 of all Civil Service examinations.

61 Announcements will be made at times most convenient for the
62 largest number of Massachusetts citizens to see and/or hear them.

63 Announcements will be made as often as is necessary to ensure
64 that the public has been made aware of the opportunities
65 available to it and provided by the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 2. If any section, subsection, sentence, phrase or
2 portion of ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitu-
3 tional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall
4 be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and
5 such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining
6 portions thereof.

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