

By Mr. Brett of Boston, petition of James T. Brett for legislation to provide improved access to state building for the handicapped. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE STATE HOUSE, TO STATE BUILDINGS, AND TO FACILITIES LOCATED THEREIN FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

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 9 of Chapter 8 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1984 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 adding at the end thereof the following sentence: — The state
4 house and all facilities located therein, including hearing rooms,
5 shall be accessible to, functional for and safe for use by physically
6 handicapped persons.

1 SECTION 2. Section 13A of chapter 22 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by chapter 528 of the Acts of 1974 is
3 hereby amended by inserting at the end of the fifth paragraph the
4 following sentence: — All controls in newly constructed or
5 renovated elevators in public buildings shall have braille
6 characters for use by the visually handicapped. Provided however
7 this act shall apply to only those elevators constructed after
8 January 1, 1990.

1 SECTION 3. The superintendent of state office buildings, in
2 cooperation with the architectural barriers board is hereby
3 authorized and directed to conduct a study relative to the
4 accessibility of the state house and all facilities located therein to
5 physically handicapped persons and to develop a plan for the

6 alteration and improvement of any such facilities found to be
7 inaccessible, non-functional, or unsafe for use by such persons
8 Said study shall include consideration of any necessary
9 construction, reconstruction, alteration or remodeling of the state
10 house, the costs thereof, the availability of authorized funding to
11 meet such costs and the need for additional authorization of funds
12 and the extent to which any such construction, reconstruction or
13 remodeling may be accomplished without injuring the architec-
14 tural and historical integrity of the state house. In conducting
15 the study, the superintendent may consult with outside experts
16 as needed, including but not limited to design and building
17 professionals, architects, engineers, and contractors. The
18 superintendent shall report the results of his study, together with
19 any recommendations, to the house and senate committees on
20 ways and means no later than July thirty-first, nineteen hundred
21 and eighty-nine.

1 SECTION 4. The Massachusetts Secretary of State is hereby
2 authorized and directed to acquire by purchase a Telecommuni-
3 cation Device for the deaf, hereinafter referred to as TDD, to be
4 located in the Office of the Secretary of State, Citizen Information
5 Service, which shall provide hearing impaired citizens with
6 information and referral services related to all aspects of state
7 government.

1 SECTION 5. To carry out the purposes of this act, there shall
2 be funds appropriated from the general fund, subsequent to a
3 public advertisement for proposals from TDD dealers located
4 within the Commonwealth. The Secretary of State shall
5 administer said advertisement and purchase and shall take into
6 consideration the circumstances and terms offered by the several
7 bidders for the above mentioned purchase; may reject any bids
8 received; shall award the contract to such bidder as in his
9 judgement the interests of the Commonwealth may require; shall
10 execute the contract in the name and behalf of the Common-
11 wealth; and may when necessary negotiate for and execute a
12 contract for the service and maintenance of said TDD.

1 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.