

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

88 KINGSTON STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111-2227, NOVEMBER 5, 1991.

The Honorable Michael Connolly, *Secretary of State*
State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Secretary Connolly:

I am enclosing three bills for you to file on the behalf of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind as follows:

So much of the Recommendations of the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

1. AN ACT TO FURTHER BRAILLE LITERACY FOR BLIND PERSONS.

ASCII is a universal coding system understood by all computers. The benefit is that once a document is in ASCII format, there are many immediate advantages:

- 1.) The document can be read aloud by blind persons using speech synthesis-equipment.
- 2.) The document can be read visually using large print hardware and software.
- 3.) The document can be converted electronically into braille using a braille printer and software.
- 4.) The document can be transmitted to any point using a modem connected to any telephone system.

2. AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WHO SHALL MAKE ALL WRITTEN LAWS AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT FOR USE BY THE PRINT HANDICAPPED THROUGH THE AMERICAN STANDARD CODE OF INFORMATION INTERCHANGE OR ITS SUCCESSOR.

The proposed legislation will provide to print handicapped people access to laws and public documents in electronic format.

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

3. AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 90 — SECTION 14A.

The proposed legislation provides for a penalty for any person who fails to restrain his dog in the presence of a guide dog.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES H. CRAWFORD.
Commissioner.