

By Mr. Fitzgerald of Boston, petition of Kevin W. Fitzgerald, and other members of the House for legislation to provide accessibility for persons with disabilities under the open meeting law. Local Affairs.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT RELATING TO HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY AND THE OPEN MEETING LAW.

*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 23B of chapter 39 of the General Laws,  
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
3 striking the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following sentence: — All meetings of a governmental body shall  
5 be open and accessible to and useable by all members of the public  
6 and any person, including persons with disabilities, shall be  
7 permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise provided by  
8 this section.

1 SECTION 2. The sixth paragraph of Section 23B of chapter 39  
2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition,  
3 is hereby amended by inserting after the fourth sentence the  
4 following sentence: — Any such notice required under this  
5 paragraph shall also be made available by a method that is  
6 accessible to and useable by persons who are visually impaired,  
7 blind, or otherwise disabled.

1 SECTION 3. The seventh paragraph of section 23B of chap-  
2 ter 39 is hereby amended by inserting after the second sentence  
3 the following sentence: — Such records of meetings shall be made  
4 available upon request by a method that is accessible to and  
5 useable by persons who are visually impaired, blind, or otherwise  
6 disabled.

1 SECTION 4. The tenth paragraph of section 23B of chapter 39  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the first sentence the  
3 following sentence: — The Massachusetts office on disability, in  
4 consultation with the attorney general, shall issue regulations  
5 regarding accessibility and useability by persons with disabilities  
6 under paragraphs one, six, and seven of this section.

1 SECTION 5. Section 11A $\frac{1}{2}$  of chapter 30A of the General  
2 Laws, as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended  
3 by striking the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following sentence: — All meetings of a governmental body shall  
5 be open and accessible to and useable by all members of the public  
6 and any person, including persons with disabilities, shall be  
7 permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise provided by  
8 this section.

1 SECTION 6. The sixth paragraph of Section 11A $\frac{1}{2}$  of chap-  
2 ter 30A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1988 Official  
3 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second sentence  
4 the following sentence: — Any such notice required under this  
5 paragraph shall also be made available by a method that is  
6 accessible to and useable by persons who are visually impaired,  
7 blind, or otherwise disabled.

1 SECTION 7. The seventh paragraph of section 11A $\frac{1}{2}$  of chap-  
2 ter 30A is hereby amended by inserting after the second sentence  
3 the following sentence: — Such records of meetings shall be made  
4 available upon request by a method that is accessible to and  
5 useable by persons who are visually impaired, blind, or otherwise  
6 disabled.

1 SECTION 8. The tenth paragraph of section 11A $\frac{1}{2}$  of chap-  
2 ter 30A is hereby amended by inserting after the first sentence the  
3 following sentence: — The Massachusetts office on disability, in  
4 consultation with the attorney general, shall issue regulations  
5 regarding accessibility and useability by persons with disabilities  
6 under paragraphs one, six, and seven of this section.