

HOUSE No. 3612

By Mr. Flaherty of Cambridge, petition of Charles F. Flaherty, Jr., for legislation to provide for fiscal notes on proposed legislation. Ways and Means (Joint).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Nine.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FISCAL NOTES.

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 3 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 37 the following new
3 section:—

4 *Section 37A.* A fiscal note is defined as a note which reports
5 the estimated cost of a proposal upon (1) existing state
6 appropriations and expenditures, (2) future state expendi-
7 tures, (3) state liabilities, (4) state revenues, and (5) related
8 matters. The chairman of a joint committee shall include a
9 fiscal note with the favorable report on any bill showing
10 projected costs or effect for the first five years of operation.
11 The commissioner of administration or the head of any
12 department or agency of the commonwealth shall transmit a
13 fiscal note in connection with any pending legislation upon
14 request of the chairman of any joint committee. The com-
15 mittee on ways and means of either branch shall include a
16 fiscal note, whether prepared under section three A of chapter
17 twenty-nine or otherwise, with its favorable report on legisla-
18 tion. All such reports shall be printed in the calendar when a
19 bill is placed on the calendar for a second reading.

1 SECTION 2. Section 3A of chapter 29 of the General Laws,
2 inserted by chapter 161 of the acts of 1963, is hereby

3 amended by inserting after the word "means" in line 6 the
4 words:—, or the chairman of a joint committee,—so as to
5 read as follows:—

6 *Section 3A.* Any officer having charge of any office, de-
7 partment or undertaking which receives a periodic appro-
8 priation from the commonwealth, shall, upon request of the
9 house or the senate committee on ways and means or the
10 chairman of a joint committee, furnish in writing to such
11 committee, and to the commissioner of administration, his
12 estimate of the cost of proposed legislation affecting activities
13 which are or would be under his supervision. The said
14 commissioner shall also, upon request of either of said com-
15 mittees, furnish to it, in writing, his estimate of the cost of
16 such proposed legislation.