

By Mr. Morrissey of Quincy, petition of Michael W. Morrissey and another relative to the storage of information by electronic and other methods in the registries of deeds. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE STORAGE OF INFORMATION BY ELECTRONIC AND OTHER METHODS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 185 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 48 the following section: —

3 Section 48A. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this
4 chapter or of chapter one hundred and eighty-three A, the register
5 of deeds, as assistant recorder, with the approval of the chief
6 justice of the land court department of the trial court, may use
7 in the administration of the registered land district a micropho-
8 tographic, electronic, mechanical, magnetic or other comparable
9 information storage facility or system capable of converting
10 information stored and entered therein into legible type or print
11 by mechanical or other means. In any registry of deeds which uses
12 such a facility or system, any information which is required by
13 this chapter to be indexed or which is required to be entered or
14 noted in any entry book or on any certificate or duplicate
15 certificate of title or memorandum of unit ownership or duplicate
16 memorandum of unit ownership or which is required to be
17 transcribed, entered, registered, noted or entered or noted in a
18 registration book, by the assistant recorder, may in lieu thereof,
19 be indexed, entered, noted, transcribed, registered, made or stored
20 in one or more of such information storage facilities or systems.
21 The assistant recorder may designate a date upon and after which
22 such record of entry, certificate of title, or memorandum of unit

23 ownership so entered and stored in said facility and verified by
24 him shall be deemed to be the original entry, certificate of title
25 or memorandum of unit ownership, and thereafter a copy or
26 printout thereof, duly certified or attested above and bearing the
27 signature of the assistant recorder and sealed with the seal of the
28 court, including an owner's duplicate certificate of title, shall be
29 the certificate of title, memorandum of unit ownership and
30 duplicates thereof when so described and shall be received as
31 evidence in all courts of the commonwealth, and shall in the case
32 of certificates of title be conclusive as to all matters contained
33 therein, and as to other documents evidence of the contents
34 thereof.

35 A deceptive notice of all involuntary instruments or documents
36 registered with the registry district after the date of issuance of
37 the certificate to which the instrument or document relates, shall
38 be mailed to the owner(s) of record at the address provided by
39 the owner(s) for this purpose. The notice shall contain the
40 document number, the date of registration, the nature of the
41 documents and the name(s) of the parties gaining or seeking to
42 gain an interest in the subject property.

43 Nothing in this section shall relieve the register of deeds of the
44 requirement imposed by section fifteen of chapter thirty-six
45 regarding duplicate copies of records.