

By Mr. Amorello, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1283) of Matthew J. Amorello for legislation to provide for the installation of assistive listening devices in all public places for use by individuals who are hard of hearing. State Administrative.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES IN PUBLIC PLACES.

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

1 For the purpose of providing listening devices for individuals
2 hard of hearing in public places; that all auditoriums, public meet-
3 ing rooms with no less than a fifty seat capacity, amphitheatres,
4 motion-picture houses or any spaces used in a similar capacity
5 shall be equipped with an assistive listening system which pro-
6 vides listening access to hearing-impaired persons.

7 In spaces equipped with a permanently installed audio amplifi-
8 cation system, the assistive listening system shall also be perma-
9 nently installed; provide listening access to all parts of the space;
10 and meet the standards of American National Standards Institute.
11 In all other spaces, the assistive listening system may be either
12 permanently installed or portable and must be configured to sup-
13 port at least 10 percent of the capacity of the space. The portion of
14 space supported by the assistive listening device must be selected
15 such that visual access is at least equivalent to the unsupported
16 space.

17 At least one easily identifiable description sign should be post-
18 ed. It will explain briefly the type of system and what is needed
19 for its use. Other signs will identify the area involved. A clearly
20 written manual for maintenance purposes including an ongoing
21 maintenance procedure shall be included. All signs should include
22 the telephone number and office responsible for the systems
23 performance.

