

By Mr. Lapointe of Chicopee, petition of Francis C. Lapointe for legislation to place the Commission on Employment of the Handicapped within but not under the supervision of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. Commerce and Labor.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Seven.

AN ACT PLACING THE COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED WITHIN AND UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to  
2 defeat its purpose, which is to maximize federal financial  
3 participation under the federal state program of vocational  
4 rehabilitation and to more effectively service the needs of the  
5 handicapped in Massachusetts, therefore it is hereby declared to  
6 be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of  
7 the public convenience.

*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 17 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as  
2 most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 833 of the Acts of  
3 1974, is hereby further amended by striking out the words "the  
4 commission on employment of the handicapped," inserted by  
5 section 2 of chapter 622 of the acts of 1958.

1 SECTION 2. Section 74 of said chapter 6, as appearing in  
2 section 2 of chapter 602 of the acts of 1956, is hereby amended by  
3 adding the following sentence:— The commission on employ-  
4 ment of the handicapped, established by section one hundred and  
5 five, shall be within but not under the supervision of the  
6 Massachusetts rehabilitation commission.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out section 105 as most recently amended by  
3 section 1 of Chapter 835 of the Acts of 1974 and inserting in place  
4 thereof the following section: — There shall be, within but not  
5 under the supervision of the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
6 commission, in this section and sections one hundred and six and  
7 one hundred and seven called the commission, consisting of the  
8 commissioner of labor and industries the commissioner of  
9 commerce and development, the commissioner of education, the  
10 commissioner of mental health, the commissioner of public health,  
11 the commissioner of public welfare, the commissioner of veterans'  
12 services, the commissioner of rehabilitation, the director of the  
13 division of employment security, the director of the division of  
14 the blind, the chairman of the industrial accident board, and the  
15 personnel administrator, ex officio, or their respective represent-  
16 atives, and sixteen members to be appointed by the governor,  
17 with the advice and consent of the council, of whom three shall  
18 represent voluntary rehabilitation agencies, two shall represent  
19 industry, two shall represent labor, two shall represent veterans'  
20 organizations, and three who shall represent various diverse  
21 handicapped groups. The governor shall designate one of the  
22 other seven appointive members as chairman of the commission.  
23 Of the appointive members, four shall be designated in their  
24 initial appointments to serve for terms of one year, four for terms  
25 of two years, four for terms of three years and four for terms of  
26 four years. Upon the expiration of the term of an appointive  
27 member his successor shall be appointed in like manner for a term  
28 of four years. The governor shall in like manner fill any vacancy  
29 for the remainder of the unexpired term.

1 SECTION 4. Section 17 of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in section 3 of chapter 704 of the acts of 1969, is hereby  
3 amended by inserting after the word "fifty-one," in line 9, the  
4 word "and", — and by striking out, in lines 11 and 12, the words,  
5 "and the commission on employment of the handicapped."

1 SECTION 5. The removal of the commission on employment  
2 of the handicapped from the executive office of manpower affairs  
3 shall not be construed as abolishing said commission, nor shall  
4 the establishment of commission on employment of the  
5 handicapped within the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commis-  
6 sion in the executive office of human services by section one  
7 hundred and five of chapter six of the General Laws, as amended  
8 by section three of this act, be construed as creating a new agency,  
9 but as a transfer of said commission from the executive office of  
10 manpower affairs to the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commis-  
11 sion within the executive office of human services. Unless a  
12 contrary intent clearly appears, all powers and duties of the  
13 commission on the employment of the handicapped, as existing  
14 immediately prior to the effective date of this act, shall continue  
15 to be exercised and performed by said commission as so  
16 transferred. Any incumbent serving as a member of the  
17 commission on the employment of the handicapped immediately  
18 prior to the effective date of this act shall continue to so serve  
19 until the expiration of the term for which he has been appointed.

1 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon passage.

