

By Mr. Flaherty of Boston, petition of Michael F. Flaherty relative to the filling of vacancies in the offices of district attorneys, registers of probate and insolvency or sheriffs. Public Service.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A DISTRICT ATTORNEY, REGISTER OF PROBATE AND INSOLVENCY OR SHERIFF IN CASE OF A VACANCY IN ANY OF SAID OFFICES.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to  
2 defeat its purpose, which is, in part, to make its provisions  
3 relative to the filling of a vacancy in the offices of district  
4 attorney, register of probate and insolvency or sheriff effective  
5 forthwith, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law,  
6 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public con-  
7 venience.

*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 142 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the Tercentenary Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the  
3 third paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following  
4 paragraph:—

5 Upon a vacancy in the office of district attorney, register of  
6 probate and insolvency or sheriff, the general court if in session  
7 may in joint assembly appoint some person thereto, until a  
8 district attorney, register of probate and insolvency or sheriff is  
9 qualified. If the general court is not in session, the governor, with  
10 the advice and consent of the council may appoint some person  
11 thereto until a district attorney, register of probate and insolvency  
12 or sheriff is qualified. Upon a vacancy in the office of clerk of  
13 courts in any county, or of the supreme judicial court in Suffolk  
14 county, the justices of said court may appoint a clerk to hold the  
15 office until a clerk is qualified.

