
To accompany the petition of Silvio O. Conte that provision be made for open meetings of boards, commissions and committees in cities of the Commonwealth. Cities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR OPEN MEETINGS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES IN CITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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 43 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by inserting after section 36 the following section:—
3 *Section 36A.* Notwithstanding any provision of law to
4 the contrary, all meetings of any board, commission or
5 committee, whether established by city charter or by gen-
6 eral or special law, of a city shall be open to the public,
7 except that such board, commission or committee may
8 by a two-thirds vote of the members thereof present and
9 voting hold an executive session which shall be private.
10 No matter shall be considered at any meeting of such
11 board, commission or committee unless said matter
12 shall appear on a printed agenda which shall be pub-
13 lished and made public at least twenty-four hours before
14 said meeting. “Executive session”, as used in this
15 section shall mean a discussion or deliberation of matters
16 which would adversely affect the public security, the
17 financial interests of the city or the reputation of any
18 employee or citizen thereof, if open meetings thereon
19 were held. The vote taken on any matter up for con-
20 sideration before such board, commission or committee
21 shall be taken in open meeting.

