



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 82

Massachusetts Division of Employment Security Records, 1935-1986, bulk 1935-1956: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Massachusetts. Division of Employment Security.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 82

Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Massachusetts Division of Employment Security Records. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Provenance: Received from Martin Levine, Dept. of Employment and Training Library, 1995.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Mary Bicknell, 1996; updated by Abigail Cramer, July, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security from its founding in 1935 (as the Unemployment Compensation Commission) to the late 1980s.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes statistical materials, forms, brochures and newspaper clippings as well as correspondence, regulations, interpretations of regulations, and notes. The collection also includes three brief histories of the agency written around 1939. There is additional material concerning employment issues and concerns after World War II and a 1956 civil defense plan for

the agency. There is also material documenting the State Advisory Council to the Division of Employment Security. Of particular interest are the contents of a notebook that may have belonged to Elinor J. Rowe, an employee of the Massachusetts Unemployment Compensation Commission (folders 1-4). Rowe's notebook contained materials relating to the development of unemployment compensation and social security in the mid-1930s.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1935, the United States Congress passed the Social Security Act, which encouraged individual states to enact laws providing for unemployment compensation. The federal government provided grants to aid the states in the administration of this law. Massachusetts created the Massachusetts Unemployment Compensation Commission in 1935 to establish and administer unemployment compensation. The commission was created in the Department of Labor and Industries but was not subject to its control. The legislation established a fund that would build for two years before benefits could be paid out. Initially contributions came from both employers and employees, but in 1938 the employees' contribution was dropped. The first benefits were paid in 1938.

In 1939, the commission was reorganized under a director with a review board, and its name was changed to the Division of Unemployment Compensation. In 1941, the name was changed again to the Division of Employment Security. This Division dealt with issues of both unemployment compensation and employment service. Employment service had been in existence in Massachusetts since 1906 and in 1942 became part of the United States Employment Service. In 1988, the Division of Employment Security (DES) and the Office of Training and Employment Policy (OTEP) merged to become the Department of Employment and Training.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The materials are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Received from Martin Levine, Dept. of Employment and Training Library, 1995.

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	1-2	Unemployment Compensation and Social Security	1935-1937
1	3	Newspaper Clippings	1936-1937
1	4	Unemployment Compensation and Social Security, Notes	undated, 1937-1945
1	5	History of the Division	undated, 1939
1	6	Brochures	undated, 1939-1944
1	7	Population and Employment Statistics Relating to Race	1910-1940
1	8	Post War Readjustment	1943-1946
1	9	Demographic Characteristics in the Labor Force	1954
1	10	Civil Defense Plan	1956
1	11	State Advisory Council, Attendance	1979-1985
1	12	State Advisory Council, Meetings	1985-1986