

seniority, retirement and other rights, without interruption of service within the meaning of the said section nine A of chapter thirty, and without reduction in compensation and salary grade.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to confer upon any officer or employee any rights not held immediately prior to the effective date of this act, or to prohibit any subsequent reduction of salary or grade, transfer or reassignment, suspension, discharge, lay-off or abolition of position not prohibited prior thereto.

All questions regarding the identification of such officers and employees and the agency to which they are so transferred shall be determined by the commissioner of administration.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect as of July first, nineteen hundred and seventy-seven.

*Approved January 11, 1978.*

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**Chap. 955.** AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to allow certain public employees to participate in the deferred compensation program, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

The fifth sentence of section 64 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in section 4 of chapter 422 of the acts of 1976, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "thirty-two", in line 4, the words:- ; provided, however, that members of the judiciary and persons whose compensation for services rendered to the commonwealth is derived from the subsidiary account 03 of the appropriation for any department, board, agency or commission of the commonwealth shall for the purposes of this section be deemed to be an employee.

*Approved January 11, 1978.*

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**Chap. 956.** AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING FEES CHARGED FOR FURNISHING CERTIFICATES OF LIENS.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to adequately compensate cities and

towns for the issuance of municipal lien certificates, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 60 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 23 the following section:-

*Section 23A.* In any city or town accepting the provisions of this section, the collector of taxes shall furnish a certificate of liens as provided in section twenty-three according to the following fee schedule: for land of less than one acre upon which there is no permanent structure a fee of ten dollars; for land upon which is situated no more than a single family residence and outbuildings a fee of ten dollars; for land upon which is situated no more than a two family residence and outbuildings a fee of fifteen dollars; for land upon which is situated no more than a three family residence with outbuildings a fee of twenty dollars; for land upon which is situated a residence for four or more families a fee of forty dollars; for land upon which is situated a commercial, industrial or public utility structure a fee of one hundred dollars; for farms, forest land and all other real property a fee of fifty dollars. In no case shall the fee exceed one half of one per cent of the assessed value of the real estate and the money so received shall be paid into the town treasury.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall apply to a certificate of liens issued after the acceptance of this act by a particular city or town, unless such city or town shall specify a later date.

*Approved January 11, 1978.*

**Chap. 957. AN ACT REGULATING COAL MINING OPERATIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.**

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 21A the following chapter:-

**Chapter 21B.  
Mining Regulation and Reclamation.**

*Section 1.* This chapter shall be known as the Coal Mining Regulatory and Reclamation Act and shall govern all coal mining operations which are conducted in the commonwealth.