

ACTS, 1980. - Chaps. 238, 239.

Chap. 238. AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT REGISTER OF THE HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 217 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 23A, inserted by section 148 of chapter 478 of the acts of 1978, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 23A. In addition to the first assistant registers of probate provided for in section twenty-three, the judges of the respective divisions of the probate and family court department for the following counties may appoint assistant registers with the same powers and duties. Said appointments shall be as follows:

Barnstable, one assistant register
Berkshire, one assistant register
Bristol, three assistant registers
Essex, three assistant registers
Hampden, three assistant registers
Hampshire, one assistant register
Middlesex, five assistant registers
Norfolk, five assistant registers
Plymouth, three assistant registers
Suffolk, five assistant registers
Worcester, four assistant registers.

SECTION 2. The register of probate of the Hampshire division shall post the position of assistant register of probate of the Hampshire division in each division of the probate and family court department prior to the appointment of a person to said position.

Approved June 3, 1980.

Chap. 239. AN ACT ALLOWING DAN G. MOLLOY, A LEGALLY BLIND PERSON, TO BE REGISTERED AS A FUNERAL DIRECTOR.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to immediately grant a certificate to allow Dan G. Molloy, a legally blind person, the opportunity to be registered as a funeral director, 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:

Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law or any rule or

ACTS, 1980. - Chap. 240.

regulation of the board of registration in embalming and funeral directing, said board shall grant a certificate of registration as a funeral director to Dan G. Molloy of the town of Milton, a legally blind person presently an apprentice registered by said board; provided, that said Dan G. Molloy can perform the duties and fulfill the responsibilities of a funeral director and embalmer commensurate with the handicap of a legally blind person.

(The foregoing was laid before the Governor on the 22nd day of May, 1980 and after ten days it had "the force of a Law", as prescribed by the Constitution, as it was not returned by him with his objections thereto within that time.)

Chap. 240. AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE LAW CONCERNING INFORMED CONSENT PRIOR TO ABORTION.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 12S, as appearing in chapter 397 of the acts of 1977, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 12S. No physician may perform an abortion upon a pregnant woman without first obtaining her written informed consent. The commissioner of public health shall prescribe a form for physicians to use in obtaining such consent. This form shall be written in a manner designed to permit a person unfamiliar with medical terminology to understand its purpose and content, and shall include the following information: a description of the stage of development of the unborn child; the type of procedure which the physician intends to use to perform the abortion; and the possible complications associated with the use of the procedure and with the performance of the abortion itself; the availability of alternatives to abortion; and a statement that, under the law of the commonwealth, a person's refusal to undergo an abortion does not constitute grounds for the denial of public assistance. A pregnant woman seeking an abortion shall sign the consent form described above at least twenty-four hours in advance of the time for which the abortion is scheduled, except in an emergency requiring immediate action. She shall then return it to the physician performing the abortion who shall maintain it in his files and destroy it seven years after the date upon which the abortion is performed.

The said consent form and any other forms, transcript of evidence, or written findings and conclusions of a court, shall