

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, BOSTON, July 30, 1970.

I, John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, hereby certify that the accompanying statement was filed in this office by His Excellency the Acting Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at four o'clock and fifty minutes, P.M., on the above date, and in accordance with Article Forty-eight of the Amendments to the Constitution said chapter takes effect forthwith, being chapter six hundred and four of the acts of nineteen hundred and seventy.

JOHN F. X. DAVOREN,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

**Chap. 605.** AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DUTIES AND SALARY OF THE SECRETARY TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION.

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

SECTION 1. The second paragraph of section 5 of chapter 16 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence, as most recently amended by section 18 of chapter 766 of the acts of 1969, and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences: — The commission shall have a secretary, appointed by the governor, who shall also act as the secretary for the department and who shall devote his entire time during business hours to the duties of his position. Said position shall be allocated to job group XXIV in the general salary schedule for the pay plan of the commonwealth established under section forty-six of chapter thirty.

SECTION 2. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed so as to affect the tenure in office of the incumbent of the position of secretary to the public works commission on the effective date of this act.

*Approved July 30, 1970.*

**Chap. 606.** AN ACT INCREASING THE SALARY AND DUTIES OF THE HEARING EXAMINER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

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

SECTION 1. The third paragraph of section 5 of chapter 16 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out subparagraph (b), as amended by section 18A of chapter 766 of the acts of 1969, and inserting in place thereof the following subparagraph: —

(b) It shall act as a board of contract appeals and shall approve or disapprove all claims made under any contract with the department. To assist the commission in performing this function, the commissioner with the approval of the governor shall appoint a person of legal training and experience, who shall be a member of the bar of the commonwealth, to the position of hearing examiner, and may remove him for cause in like manner. The hearing examiner shall devote his entire time during business hours to the duties of his position and said position, for salary purposes, shall be allocated to job group XXVI in the general salary schedule for the pay plan of the commonwealth and established under section forty-six of chapter thirty. The department or commission may refer any dispute concerning contracts, contract specifications or the execution of contracts to the hearing examiner for a report of the matter including a recommendation as to the disposition of the dispute.

SECTION 2. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed so as to affect the tenure in office of the incumbent in the position of hearing examiner on the effective date of this act. *Approved July 30, 1970.*

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**Chap. 607.** AN ACT INCREASING THE RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT POLICE OFFICERS RETIRED FOR DISABILITY INCURRED IN PERFORMANCE OF DUTY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 90A of chapter 32 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph: —

Any metropolitan district police officer who has been retired under any provision of this chapter or similar provision of earlier law on account of injuries sustained or of hazard undergone in the performance of his duty shall have his retirement allowance increased to an amount not exceeding one half the rate of regular compensation payable to metropolitan district police officers holding similar positions, at the time of increasing such allowance, in the same grade or classification occupied by such former officer at the time of his retirement.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect as of January the first, nineteen hundred and seventy. *Approved July 30, 1970.*

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**Chap. 608.** AN ACT AUTHORIZING TRUST COMPANIES, SAVINGS BANKS AND CO-OPERATIVE BANKS TO ASSIST IN THE DISTRIBUTION TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS OF FOOD STAMP COUPONS UNDER THE FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM.

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

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any trust company, savings bank or co-operative bank may, pursuant to an agreement with the department of public welfare, participate in a plan for the distribution and redemption of food stamp coupons in connection with the act of Congress known as the Food Stamp Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-525; 78 Stat. 703). *Approved August 3, 1970.*

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, STATE HOUSE,  
BOSTON, August 13, 1970.

The Honorable JOHN F. X. DAVOREN, *Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, Massachusetts.*

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: — I, Francis W. Sargent, pursuant to the provisions of Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the Referendum II, Emergency Measures, hereby declare in my opinion the immediate preservation of the public convenience requires that the law being Chapter 608 of the Acts of 1970, entitled "AN ACT AUTHORIZING TRUST COMPANIES, SAVINGS BANKS AND CO-OPERATIVE BANKS TO ASSIST IN THE DISTRIBUTION TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS OF FOOD STAMP COUPONS UNDER THE FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM," and the enactment of which received my approval on August 3, 1970, should take effect forthwith.