

By Mr. Hermann of North Andover, petition of Joseph N. Hermann and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide improved access to state buildings for the handicapped. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE STATE HOUSE, TO STATE BUILDINGS, AND TO FACILITIES LOCATED THEREIN FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 9 of Chapter 8 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1984 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 adding at the end thereof the following sentence: — The state
4 house and all facilities located therein, including hearing rooms,
5 shall be accessible to, functional for and safe for use by physically
6 handicapped persons.

1 SECTION 2. Section 13A of chapter 22 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by chapter 528 of the acts of 1974, is
3 hereby amended by inserting at the end of the fifth paragraph the
4 following sentence: — All controls in newly constructed or
5 renovated elevators in public buildings shall have braille
6 characters for use by the visually handicapped. Provided however
7 this act shall apply to only those elevators constructed after
8 January 1, 1989.

1 SECTION 3. The superintendent of state office buildings, in
2 cooperation with the architectural barriers board is hereby
3 authorized and directed to conduct a study relative to the acces-
4 sibility of the state house and all facilities located therein to physi-
5 cally handicapped persons and to develop a plan for the alteration
6 and improvement of any such facilities found to be inaccessible,

7 non-functional, or unsafe for use by such persons. Said study shall
8 include consideration of any necessary construction, reconstruction,
9 tion, alteration or remodeling of the state house, the costs thereof,
10 the availability of authorized funding to meet such costs and the
11 need for additional authorization of funds, and the extent to which
12 any such construction, reconstruction or remodeling may be ac-
13 complished without injuring the architectural and historical in-
14 tegrity of the state house. In conducting the study, the
15 superintendent may consult with outside experts, as needed,
16 including but not limited to design and building professionals,
17 architects, engineers, and contractors. The superintendent shall
18 report the results of his study, together with any recommenda-
19 tions, to the house and senate committees on ways and means no
20 later than July thirty-first, nineteen hundred and eighty-nine.

1 SECTION 4. The Massachusetts Secretary of State is hereby
2 authorized and directed to acquire by purchase a Telecommuni-
3 cation Device for the deaf, hereinafter referred to as TDD, to be
4 located in the Office of the Secretary of State, Citizen Information
5 Service, which shall provide hearing impaired citizens with
6 information and referral services related to all aspects of state
7 government.

1 SECTION 5. To carry out the purposes of this act, there shall
2 be funds appropriated from the general fund subsequent to a
3 public advertisement for proposals from TDD dealers located
4 within the Commonwealth. The Secretary of State shall
5 administer said advertisement and purchase and shall take into
6 consideration the circumstances and terms offered by the several
7 bidders for the above mentioned purchase; may reject any bids
8 received; shall award the contract to such bidder as in his judge-
9 ment the interests of the Commonwealth may require; shall
10 execute the contract in the name and behalf of the Common-
11 wealth; and may when necessary negotiate for and execute a
12 contract for the service and maintenance of said TDD.

1 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.