

By Mr. Hermann of North Andover, petition of the Association of Mass. Assessors relative to establishing an assessors qualification commission and defining its powers and duties. Taxation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Nine.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ASSESSORS QUALIFICATION COMMISSION AND DEFINING ITS POWERS AND DUTIES.

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 24 of chapter 41 to be amended by adding at the end of
2 section 24 the following: —

3 For the purposes of enabling assessors and assistant assessors in
4 the performance of the duties of their offices in compliance with
5 statutory requirements there is hereby created an unpaid commis-
6 sion to be known as the Assessors Qualification Commission
7 whose membership shall comprise the commissioner of the depart-
8 ment of revenue or his designee, the president of the Association of
9 Massachusetts Assessors or his designee and a third person to be
10 appointed by the governor of the commonwealth, whose term of
11 office shall be co-terminous with that of the governor. The said
12 commission shall annually, in at least five different locations
13 within the commonwealth, conduct an educational program con-
14 sisting of such lectures, courses, conferences or seminars as it may
15 consider necessary to enable all assessors and assistant assessors to
16 be and to remain qualified for their official positions and to enable
17 those who are qualified by the said commission, to improve and
18 update their knowledge of the assessing profession. This commis-
19 sion may use, to accomplish its purpose, the assistance of all
20 available educational, professional and institutional organizations

21 and also the officers and personnel of the state and local govern-
22 ments. Every assessor and assistant assessor who first assumes his
23 office on or after January first 1980 shall have a period of three
24 years from the date on which he assumes office to become certified
25 by the commission by attending such parts of its educational
26 program as he may consider to be of assistance to him and he must
27 attend such part of the commission's educational program as it
28 directs. The commission shall issue a certificate of qualification to
29 all who participate in its educational program and who satisfactori-
30 ily complete such program or programs as the commission may
31 prescribe for him. The certificate so issued shall be for the lifetime
32 of the recipient. The commission shall notify the mayor or man-
33 ager, or selectmen of the municipality in which the assessor or
34 assistant assessor holds office to whom a certificate is issued. The
35 commission shall also notify the mayor or manager or selectmen of
36 the municipality in which an assessor or assistant assessor holds
37 office if an assessor or an assistant assessor refuses to participate in
38 the commission's program when directed to do so, or, having par-
39 ticipated in the program, fails to be certified by the commission.
40 All costs incurred by an assessor or an assistant assessor in attend-
41 ing such lectures, courses, conferences or seminars, as are
42 approved by the commissioner of the department of revenue, shall
43 be paid by the municipality in which the assessor or assistant
44 assessor holds office. All assessor and assistant assessors holding
45 those offices on the effective date of this act shall be deemed to be
46 qualified by the commission and shall be issued certificates to that
47 effect.