



STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS

RECEIVED
JAN -7 AM 11:12

CAMBRIDGE, MA.
MANDATE UPDATE

TO: Municipal Chief Executive Officers, Police Chiefs
FROM: John Finnegan, Auditor of the Commonwealth
DATE: December 31, 1986
RE: Amended Effective Date of The Suicide Prevention Act

Chapter 669 of the Acts of 1986, signed into law on December 30, 1986 has extended the December 31, 1986 effective date of the Suicide Prevention Act to June 30, 1987. This amendment for extension was passed to allow local police departments additional time to suicide-proof their lockup facilities as required by Chapter 456 of the Acts of 1984.

JOHN J. FINNEGAN,
AUDITOR

I supported this legislation because logistical problems with contractors and suppliers across the state made compliance with the December 31, 1986 deadline unrealistic. In a letter to state legislative leaders supporting the extension of the effective date, I also requested that the Legislature provide for state funding of the local personnel costs to implement the 15-minute cell check requirement. In a state-wide cost study, released earlier this year to the "Special Commission To Investigate Suicide In Municipal Detention Centers," the Division of Local Mandates estimated that first year state funding of \$4.72 million is necessary to satisfy the local mandate provisions of G.L. c. 29, s. 27C(a). The June 30, 1987 effective date provides time to seek a legislative solution to address this concern.

The Division of Local Mandates will continue to seek action on this unresolved aspect of Chapter 456 and keep you apprised of any progress. In the meantime, municipal officials may wish to contact their legislators to request their support for state funding of the new personnel costs.

Please contact the Division of Local Mandates at 1-800-462-COST or (617) 727-0980 if you have questions regarding this issue. Thank you.

DIVISION OF LOCAL MANDATES
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ROOM 933
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
02116
617-727-0980
1-800-462-2678

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Comm. from John Finnegan, State Auditor, Re:
Chapter 669 of the Acts of 1986, extending
the December 31, 1986 effective date of the
Suicide Prevention Act to June 30, 1987.

In City Council,

January 12, 1987

Placed in File