



Informational GUIDELINE Release

Commissioner Stephen W. Kidder
Deputy Commissioner Edward J. Collins, Jr.

Property Tax Bureau
Informational Guideline Release (IGR) No. 87-242
November, 1987

CHANGES TO THE OPEN MEETING LAW
C. 694 of the Acts of 1986
C. 159 of the Acts of 1987
(Amending G.L. Ch. 39 S. 23B)

This informational guideline release informs local officials of two changes to the open meeting law concerning executive sessions for employment applicants and the use of videotape equipment to record meetings.

Topical Index Key:
Miscellaneous

Distribution:
Clerks
Selectmen/Mayors
City Councils
Town Counsels/
City Solicitors



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES

STEPHEN W. KIDDER
COMMISSIONER

EDWARD J. COLLINS, JR.
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

PROPERTY TAX BUREAU
INFORMATIONAL GUIDELINE
RELEASE NO. 87-242

Subject: Open Meeting Law

There have been two recent changes in the Open Meeting Law.

I. OPEN MEETING LAW - EXECUTIVE SESSION
FOR EMPLOYMENT APPLICANTS

Chapter 694 of the Acts of 1986
(Amending G.L. Ch. 39 S. 23B)

SUMMARY:

By this legislation, the Open Meeting Law is further amended to provide an additional (eighth) reason for which a governmental body may hold an executive session after an open meeting has been convened.

This legislation permits a preliminary screening committee or a subcommittee appointed by a governmental body the opportunity to review resumes and interview candidates for employment in executive session, if an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants.

GUIDELINES:

1. In the preliminary screening process, interviews with employment candidates and consideration of resumes may be held in executive session, if an open meeting will detrimentally effect the pool of qualified applicants.

2. Executive session is not permitted at any further stage of the review process, after the preliminary screening.

EXAMPLE:

The position of school superintendent is vacant. A number of potential candidates seek that their resumes be kept confidential in order not to prejudice relations with current employers. A subcommittee of the local school committee may go into executive session for interviews of candidates and discussion of resumes as part of the preliminary screening process.

The full school committee, however, in discussing the semi-finalists for the school superintendent position, may not hold an executive session.

PROPERTY TAX BUREAU Harry M. Grossman, Chief
Lucille F. Bayes, Asst. Chief

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II. OPEN MEETINGS - USE OF VIDEOTAPE EQUIPMENT

Chapter 159 of the Acts of 1987
(Amending G.L. Ch. 39 S. 23B)

SUMMARY:

Another recent amendment to the Open Meeting Law permits meetings of a governmental body, except executive sessions, to be recorded by any person in attendance by means of videotape equipment.

Prior to this legislation, open meetings could be recorded only by means of a tape recorder or by any other means of sound reproduction.

GUIDELINE:

With the exception of an executive session, a meeting of a governmental body may now be recorded by any person in attendance by means of videotape equipment. The governmental body, however, determines where this equipment may be placed.



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Deputy Commissioner Edward J. Collins, Jr.

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ISSUING DEBT FOR AERIAL MAPPING
AND APPRAISAL CONTRACTS
C. 163 of the Acts of 1987
(Amending G.L. Ch. 44 S. 7 Cl. 18)

This informational guideline release informs local officials of a new law allowing municipalities to borrow for up to ten years to obtain new tax maps based on aerial photography.

Topical Index Key:

Treasurers and Collectors:
Responsibilities and Duties

Distribution:

Treasurers
Assessors
Accountants/Auditors
Selectmen/Mayors
Finance Committees
Town Counsels/
City Solicitors



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DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES

STEPHEN W. KIDDER
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PROPERTY TAX BUREAU

INFORMATIONAL GUIDELINE
RELEASE NO. 87-244

Subject: Debt for
Aerial Mapping

Issuing Debt for Aerial Mapping
and Appraisal Contracts
(Chapter 163 of the Acts of 1987)

SUMMARY:

Chapter 44 Section 7 of the General Laws permits cities and towns to borrow money within the debt limit, i.e., subject to the debt limit as outlined in Section 10 of Chapter 44.

Prior to this legislation, Clause 18 of Section 7 permitted municipalities to borrow within the debt limit for a period of two years to pay for contracts for the expert appraisal of taxable property or for the preparation of assessors' maps.

A recent amendment to Clause 18 permits municipal treasurers to borrow for ten years to obtain brand new tax maps based on aerial photography.

The two year period for borrowing, however, still applies when a municipality borrows for the expert appraisal of taxable property or to update existing poorly drawn aerial maps.

GUIDELINES:

1. Communities may now borrow for ten years to obtain brand new aerial maps.
2. Any borrowing for property revaluation or for the update of existing aerial maps may not exceed two years.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES

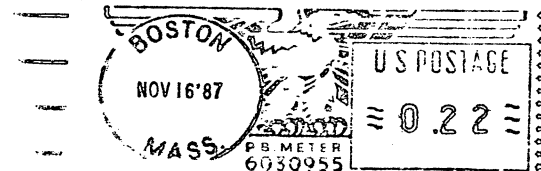
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**FORWARDING & ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139



Comm. from the Mass. Dept. of Revenue, Div. of Local Services, transmitting informational guidelines Re: changes in the Open Meeting Law on executive sessions for employment applicants & videotaping of meetings & also on allowing municipalities to borrow for up to ten years to obtain new tax maps based on aerial photos.

In City Council,

November 23, 1987

Placed on file.

Copy to all
Councilors.

11-23-87