

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY PROJECT

St. 2013, ch. 140: An Act Maintaining Short-Term Objectives for Students with
Disabilities

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MEMO

I conducted a legislative history of St. 2013, ch. 140: An Act Maintaining Short-Term Objectives for Students with Disabilities.¹ I began by looking at the Massachusetts legislature's website. There, I found the text of the act,² and the text of the Senate Bill 218 ("S. 218") in the 188th session³ from which the act⁴ was signed into law, and Senate Bill 193 ("S. 193") in the 187th session,⁵ a refile. I also found the bill history of both bills here, along with the petitioners of both bills.⁶ On this website, I also pulled the affected statute.⁷

Second, I looked at MassTrac or InstaTrac. There, I was able to pull the bill text, bill history, bill refile numbers, and the co-sponsors for both bills.⁸ I found oral testimony (in writing) for S. 218⁹ here. However, I did not find any reports.

Third, I searched the SHNS archives of the State House News Service for articles. I searched the act name, and both bill numbers (specifically, versions of 'An Act Maintaining Short-Term Objectives for Students with Disabilities,' 'S. 193' and 'S. 218') in the SHNS archives list, the Daily Digest SHNS archives, and the PR archives.¹⁰ I only found articles referring to S. 218.¹¹ Please note that I did find some articles that referenced S. 311, an Act to maintain short-term objectives for students with

¹ 2013 Mass. Legis. Serv. 511 (West).

² *Id.*

³ S. 218, 188th Gen. Court, Reg. Sess. (Mass. 2013).

⁴ 2013 Mass. Legis. Serv. 511 (West).

⁵ S. 193, 187th Gen. Court, Reg. Sess. (Mass. 2011).

⁶ S. 218; S. 193.

⁷ MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 71B, § 3 (2012 & Supp. 2013).

⁸ S. 218; S. 193.

⁹ S. 218.

¹⁰ 2013 Mass. Legis. Serv. 511 (West); S. 218; S. 193.

¹¹ S. 218.

disabilities,¹² but did not include them because although it appears to be related, I did not find it under ‘refiles’ in MassTrac or InstaTrac.

Fourth, I searched Westlaw for information. I looked at the information and documents related to the act and both bills.¹³ I found journals under the act, along with the act text, bill drafts (text, tracking and committee schedules),¹⁴ and information directing me to the affected statute.¹⁵ I also found the bill text (introduced and approved), tracking, and a committee schedule for both S. 193 and S. 218.¹⁶ I found a journal for S. 193.¹⁷

Finally, I contacted numerous people at the Massachusetts State House. First, I e-mailed the Joint Committee on Education contacts provided by Professor Kealy (Jennie Williamson and Angela Brooks). I received a bill summary for S. 218 from Ms. Williamson, and testimony for S. 218 from Carolyn Benzon, the research analyst for S. 218.¹⁸ Ms. Brooks provided me with the phone number for the House Committee staff, which I tried calling but at the time they did not pick up. However, I realized that since I already talked to Ms. Williamson, the House Committee staff contact I received from Professor Kealy, I probably have already received everything they have on the subject. I called the Governor’s office, and the Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, but they did not have anything for me. Specifically, the Governor’s office directed me to the Massachusetts legislature’s website and said that I could contact the related Senators

¹² S. 311, 185th Gen. Court, Reg. Sess. (Mass. 2007).

¹³ 2013 Mass. Legis. Serv. 511 (West); S. 218; S. 193.

¹⁴ 2013 Mass. Legis. Serv. 511 (West); S. 218.

¹⁵ MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 71B, § 3 (2012 & Supp. 2013).

¹⁶ S. 218; S. 193.

¹⁷ S. 193.

¹⁸ S. 218.

and Representative's offices (which I believe I did by contacting the committees mentioned in this memo), and the Committee Steering, Policy and Scheduling said that they said they wouldn't have any real materials on the bill, as their office is strictly procedural. I called the Committee on Senate Ethics and Rules, and was told to leave a voicemail for Mark Dailey. I followed up by calling his office again in order to try and talk with him, but no one answered. I also called the library in the State House and spoke with a librarian there who believed that I may be fine with what I've already found. I confirmed with Professor Kealy that there was likely nothing that I needed to pick up there for this project. Thus, I compiled all of the materials that I found beginning on page 1, organized according to the table of contents beginning on page i.