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Legislative History Project

Memo on Trouble Areas and Places Searched

In discovering the legislative history for this bill, the area in which I encountered the most trouble was in acquiring documents and testimony held at the State House. I began by calling the different committees that the bill passed through, however, ended up being transferred among the different committees and leaving messages with the people whose offices I was transferred. I waited a few weeks until I repeated the process, and this time I was able to talk to Mark William Bracken, a policy analyst for the Joint Committee on Financial Services. He explained that he had chaperoned the bill through the legislature, and as such, held all the documents relating to the bill.

Besides the committees through which the bill passed, I also looked in the State House library, called the Governor's office, searched the State House News Service press release archives and audio archives, searched Westlaw, and searched LexisNexis. Each of these sources produced nothing. On the positive side, State House News Service proved fruitful in finding the news regarding roll call votes and other news regarding the bill. The Massachusetts's State Legislature website also proved helpful for finding the bill history and the bill text, as well as for finding the senate and house journals.