

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3969

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Nine  
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An Act relative to a joint legislative budget office..

*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 1. Section 56 of chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

2           SECTION 2. Section 57 of chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

3           SECTION 3. Section 58 of chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

4           SECTION 4. Section 59 of chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

5           SECTION 5. Section 60 of chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

6           SECTION 6. Section 61 of chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

7           SECTION 7. Chapter 3 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
8 adding the following 4 sections:-

9           Section 68. There is hereby established the Joint Legislative Budget Office, hereinafter  
10 called the office, which shall consist of a director and staff, the director to be appointed by the  
11 speaker and senate president, in consultation with the chairmen of the joint committee on post  
12 audit and oversight, ways and means committees and minority leaders of both branches. There

13 shall be 5 analysts within the office, one of which shall be a certified public accountant and one  
14 of which shall be an attorney. The staff shall be appointed by the director. Every 2 years there  
15 shall be a new director or the current director shall be reappointed. The director shall be selected  
16 without regard to his political affiliation. All employees of the office shall be considered  
17 employees of the general court.

18       Section 69. The office shall be nonpartisan and shall be responsible for providing an  
19 advisory opinion upon the request of a legislative committee or commission or one or more  
20 legislators on either the fiscal impact of a bill or budget item or a related issue of a bill or budget  
21 item. These findings shall be confidential and advisory in nature and the office shall have no  
22 legislative powers. If the time within which a response by the office is limited, responses shall  
23 be prioritized on a first come, first served basis. The office shall not have any authority to draft  
24 or assist in drafting legislation, but may review legislation. The office shall have the authority  
25 and ability to access documents maintained by agencies or authorities of the commonwealth  
26 relating to their expenditures, revenues, operations and organizational structures. The office may  
27 conduct confidential research to ascertain the procedures employed by other states with similar  
28 issues.

29       Section 70. Funding for the office shall be provided equally by the house and senate  
30 from the general budget.

31       Section 71. An annual report shall be given by the office to the state library, the speaker  
32 of the house, the senate president, the chair of the house committee on ways and means, the chair  
33 of the senate committee on ways and means, the chairs of the post audit and oversight  
34 committee, and the minority leaders of both the house and senate. A copy of the same shall be

- 35 filed with the clerk of the house of representatives and the clerk of the senate on or before the
- 36 2nd Wednesday of November in each year.