

## No. 20

## AN ACT

## HB 847

Amending the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), entitled "An act relating to Commonwealth documents; providing for the printing and distribution of administrative regulations; regulating the adoption, publication, codification and effectiveness of regulations, statements of policy, and certain other Commonwealth documents; creating the Joint Committee on Documents and prescribing its powers and duties; providing penalties, and making appropriations and repeals," providing for certain certifications by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), known as the "Commonwealth Documents Law," is amended by adding a section to read:

**Section 508. Certification by Bureau as Evidence.—(a) Copies of all documents, records and papers of the Legislative Reference Bureau, when duly certified by the Director or Assistant Director, shall be admissible as evidence in proceedings in the several courts of this Commonwealth and before any government agency in all cases where the original documents, records and papers would be admitted as evidence, with the same force and effect as the originals.**

**(b) A certification by the Director or the Assistant Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau as to the filing or absence of filing of a document or publication or the absence of publication of a document shall be admissible as evidence in proceedings in the several courts of this Commonwealth and before any government agency.**

**(c) Unless directed otherwise by the court or the presiding officer of the agency, a certification issued under this section shall constitute sufficient compliance with a subpoena directing an officer or employe of the Legislative Reference Bureau to appear for the purpose of presenting testimony or producing documents relating to matters set forth in the certification or accompanying documents.**

**(d) Whenever a certification is issued by the Bureau pursuant to the provisions of this section, the Bureau shall charge a reasonable fee for such certification. The Director of the Bureau shall determine and establish by regulation the amount of the certification fee.**

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 3rd day of March, A. D. 1976.

MILTON J. SHAPP