

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1333**

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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 child testimony in criminal proceedings.

*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 20 of chapter 233 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006  
2 official edition, is hereby amended by striking the fourth clause and inserting in place thereof  
3 the following:--

4           Fourth, An unemancipated, minor child, shall not testify before a grand jury, trial of an  
5 indictment, complaint or other criminal proceeding, against a parent who maintains either  
6 physical custody, legal custody or both over said child, where the victim in such proceeding is  
7 not a member of said parent's family and who does not reside in the said parent's household. For  
8 the purposes of this clause the term "parent" shall mean the natural or adoptive mother or father  
9 of said child.