

SENATE No. 1646

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to the appointment of GAL to investigate..

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. Chapter 215 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1996 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by striking section 56A and inserting in place thereof the following
3 section:— Section 56A. Any judge of a probate and family court may appoint a guardian
4 ad litem to investigate the facts of any proceeding pending in said court relating to or involving
5 questions as to the care, custody or maintenance of minor children and as to any matter involving
6 domestic relations except those for the investigation of which provision is made by section
7 sixteen of chapter two hundred and eight. Said guardian ad litem shall, before final judgment or
8 decree in such proceeding, report in writing to the court the results of the investigation, and such
9 report shall be open to inspection to all the parties in such proceeding or their attorneys. The
10 compensation, together with any expense, shall be fixed by the court and shall be paid by the
11 commonwealth, upon certificate by the judge to the state treasurer or by one or both of the
12 parties, as the court may order. The state police, local police and probation officers shall assist
13 the guardian ad litem so appointed, upon his request.