

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1362**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Anne M. Gobi*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to advertising by a justice of the peace.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>	<i>1/14/2013</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1362**

By Ms. Gobi of Spencer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1362) of Anne M. Gobi relative to advertising by justices of the peace for the solemnization of marriages. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2175 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act relative to advertising by a justice of the peace.

*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 207 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section  
2 58 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 58. A Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to solemnize marriages may  
4 advertise his or her name or any trade name, business address, telephone number, rate of  
5 compensation as provided by law, regular hours of availability and any ability in a second  
6 language and any present or former professional affiliation, in any public media, such as  
7 telephone directory, electronic or computer accessed justice of the peace directory, newspaper or  
8 other periodical, radio or television or through written, electronic, computer-accessed or similar  
9 types of communication, including websites. However, whoever advertises to perform or to  
10 procure the performance of a marriage ceremony by any other means shall be punished by a fine  
11 of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars. This section shall not be construed to  
12 prohibit the use of a business card by a Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to perform  
13 marriage ceremonies; and provided, further said card shall not display the seal of the  
14 Commonwealth.