

HOUSE No. 3685

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Curran

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 resolve:

Resolve to direct the Office of Administration and Finance, as well as the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Massachusetts State Senate to study the feasibility of constructing a 21st Century Courthouse in Hampden County, located in the City of Springfield.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sean Curran</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	

HOUSE No. 3685

By Mr. Curran of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Sean Curran for an investigation and study of the feasibility and benefits of a Hampden County district courthouse in the city of Springfield. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

Resolve to direct the Office of Administration and Finance, as well as the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Massachusetts State Senate to study the feasibility of constructing a 21st Century Courthouse in Hampden County, located in the City of Springfield.

1 **Resolved**, SECTION 1. That the Executive Office of Administration and Finance through
2 the office of Planning, Design and Construction shall conduct an investigation and study of the
3 feasibility and benefits of a new Hampden County District Courthouse in the City of Springfield.

4 It shall begin such a study by creating a Hampden County Courthouse feasibility
5 commission.

6 The commission shall investigate and study the following:

7 The feasibility of constructing a state of the art 21st century courthouse, that has up to
8 date wireless technology, data storage, internet streaming, and real time courtroom audio and
9 visual technology located in the City of Springfield.

10 Said study shall investigate access to sites in particular, but not limited to: the North End
11 or South End neighborhoods in Springfield.

12 Said study shall determine the feasibility of constructing a new courthouse on several
13 sites in particular, but not limited to:

14 The Federal Post Office building, the Peter Pan Bus terminal, or the current site of the
15 Republican newspaper.

16 Said study shall evaluate the fiscal impacts on Hampden County and the Commonwealth
17 of Massachusetts. It shall specifically address the construction costs of such a courthouse.

18 Said study shall also investigate the potential for construction and other full-time jobs,
19 which might benefit the citizens and communities of Hampden County.

20 Said study shall investigate the feasibility of designing a courthouse with the most
21 advanced and stringent environmental standards in the Commonwealth.

22 Said study will also examine ways to integrate the courthouse to the community at large,
23 as well as local colleges, universities, and law schools.

24 Said study shall review the Hampden County Hall of Justice currently in operation, and
25 address the inadequacies of its current design.

26 Said study shall study the design and construction costs courthouses built in the last ten
27 years here in New England, as well as across the country

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29 Said study shall also review the possibility of changing the name of the courthouse from
30 Hampden County Hall of Justice to the Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland Judicial Center.

31 Said commission shall consist of three justices, retired or active, who served in Hampden
32 County, a member of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, five representatives of the
33 Hampden County Bar Association, one member of the building trades, a representative from the
34 Hampden County Registrar of Deeds, a representative from the Hampden County Registrar of
35 Probate, a representative from the Hampden County Clerk of Court's office, a representative
36 from the Hampden County District Attorney's office, a representative from the Public
37 Defender's office, a representative from the Massachusetts Court Officer's Union, and a
38 representative from the Massachusetts Office of Probation, a representative from the Hampden
39 County Sheriff's Department.

40 Said commission will also consist of appointees and necessary designees from the Office
41 of Administration and Finance, whose knowledge and expertise in construction might be of some
42 benefit to said commission.

43 Said commission will also consist of a member of the Massachusetts House of
44 Representatives, or a designee from the House, as well as a member of the Massachusetts State
45 Senate, or a designee of the Senate.

46 Said commission shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means,
47 as well as to the Secretary of Administration and Finance, on the findings and recommendations
48 of the commission, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry the
49 recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerks of the Senate and House by
50 January 6, 2015.