SENATE DOCKET, NO. 983 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

SENATE . . . . . No. 901

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

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 the geographical jurisdiction of the Housing Court Department.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Karen E. Spilka	*Second Middlesex and Norfolk*
John F. Keenan	*Norfolk and Plymouth*
Kenneth J. Donnelly	*Fourth Middlesex*
Paul J. Donato	*35th Middlesex*
Carmine L. Gentile	*13th Middlesex*
William N. Brownsberger	*Second Suffolk and Middlesex*
Carolyn C. Dykema	*8th Middlesex*
Daniel J. Ryan	*2nd Suffolk*
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*
Brian R. Mannal	*2nd Barnstable*
Michael F. Rush	*Norfolk and Suffolk*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*
David T. Vieira	*3rd Barnstable*
Jeffrey Sánchez	*15th Suffolk*
Viriato M. deMacedo	*Plymouth and Barnstable*

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By Ms. Spilka, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 901) of Karen E. Spilka, John F. Keenan, Kenneth J. Donnelly, Paul J. Donato and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the geographical jurisdiction of the Housing Court Department. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act relative to the geographical jurisdiction of the Housing Court Department.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 185C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in the place thereof the following sentence:-- The housing court department, established under section 1 of chapter 211B, shall be composed of a western division, consisting of the municipalities in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties; a central division, consisting of the municipalities in Worcester county, and the municipalities of Ashland, Framingham, Hudson, Holliston, Hopkinton, Marlborough, Natick, Sudbury, Wayland, and Sherborn in Middlesex county; a northeastern division, including the municipalities in Essex county and the municipalities of Acton, Ashby, Ayer, Bedford, Billerica, Boxborough, Burlington, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, Dunstable, Everett, Groton, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Lowell, Malden, Maynard, Melrose, North Reading, Pepperell, Reading, Shirley, Stoneham, Stow, Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Westford, Weston,

13 Wilmington, Winchester, and Woburn in Middlesex county, and the jurisdiction known as
14 Devens established under chapter 498 of the acts of 1993; a southeastern division consisting of
15 the municipalities in Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, and Nantucket counties, and the municipalities
16 of Carver, Duxbury, Halifax, Hanson, Hanover, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Lakeville, Marion,
17 Marshfield, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rochester,
18 Rockland, Scituate, and Wareham in Plymouth county ; a metro south division consisting of the
19 municipalities in Norfolk County, except Brookline, and the municipalities of Abington,
20 Bridgewater, Brockton, East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, and Whitman in Plymouth county;
21 and an eastern division consisting of all municipalities in Suffolk county, and the municipalities
22 of Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge, Medford, Newton, and Somerville in Middlesex county, and
23 the municipality of Brookline in Norfolk county.

24 SECTION 2. Section 4 of chapter 185C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
25 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the second, third, fourth and fifth paragraphs and
26 inserting in the place thereof the following paragraphs:--

27 The eastern division of the housing court department shall hold at least one sitting per
28 week in Suffolk county and as least one sitting per week in Middlesex county. The court, with
29 the consent of the chief justice of the trial court, shall also sit in such other courthouse facilities
30 as the chief justice of the housing court department may deem to be expedient or convenient.

31 The central division of the housing court department shall hold at least one sitting per
32 week in the City of Worcester, at least one sitting per week in Middlesex county, at least one
33 sitting per week in northern Worcester county, and at least one sitting per week in Southern
34 Worcester county. The court, with the consent of the chief justice of the trial court, shall also sit

35 in such other courthouse facilities as the chief justice of the housing court department may deem
36 to be expedient or convenient.

37 The northeastern division of the housing court department shall hold at least two sittings
38 per week in Essex County and at least two sittings per week in Middlesex county. The court,
39 with the consent of the chief justice of the trial court, shall also sit in such other courthouse
40 facilities as the chief justice of the housing court department may deem to be expedient or
41 convenient.

42 The southeastern division of the housing court department shall hold at least three sittings
43 per week in Bristol county, at least one sitting per week in Plymouth county, and at least one
44 sitting per week in Barnstable county. The court, with the consent of the chief justice of the trial
45 court, shall also sit in such other courthouse facilities as the chief justice of the housing court
46 department may deem to be expedient or convenient.

47 The metro south division of the housing court department shall hold at least one sitting
48 per week in Norfolk county and at least one sitting per week in Plymouth county. The court, with
49 the consent of the chief justice of the trial court, shall also sit in such other courthouse facilities
50 as the chief justice of the housing court department may deem to be expedient or convenient.

51 SECTION 3. Section 8 of chapter 185C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
52 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking first sentence and inserting in the place thereof
53 the following:-- There shall be two justices appointed for the western division, two justices
54 appointed for the central division, two justices appointed for the northeastern division, two
55 justices appointed for the metro south division, two justices appointed for the southeastern

56 division, two justices appointed for the eastern division, and three circuit justices who shall sit in
57 any of the divisions as determined by the chief justice of the housing court department.

58 SECTION 4. Section 1 of chapter 211B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
59 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking in line seven “378” and replacing it with “383.”

60 SECTION 5. Section 2 of chapter 211B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
61 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking in line two “10” and replacing it with “15.”

62 SECTION 6. This provisions of this act shall take effect on January 1, 2016.