

SENATE No. 981

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James E. Timilty

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 to ensure courthouse security.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>

SENATE No. 981

By Mr. Timilty, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 981) of James E. Timilty and John C. Velis for legislation to ensure courthouse security. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

An Act to ensure courthouse security.

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 70A of chapter 221 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following sentence:-

3 “Pursuant to said police powers, court officers may carry within the premises of the court
4 or in the immediate vicinity thereof such weapons as the chief justice of the trial court, the chief
5 justice of the supreme judicial court or the chief justice of the appeals court shall determine
6 necessary. Provided, however, that, prior to being permitted to carry a firearm within a
7 courthouse, a court officer shall have a license to carry pursuant to section 131 of chapter 140 or
8 section 131F of chapter 140.”

9 SECTION 2. Section 70A of chapter 221 of the General Laws is hereby further amended
10 by striking, in lines 3-4, the words “the areas of the court to which they have been assigned;” and
11 inserting in place thereof the following words:

12 “the premises of the court or in the immediate vicinity thereof”