

**SENATE . . . . . No. 949**

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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 establishing a commission to study judicial accountability in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Anne M. Gobi*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 949**

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By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 949) of Anne M. Gobi for legislation to establish a commission to study judicial accountability in the Commonwealth. The Judiciary.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 870 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing a commission to study judicial accountability in the Commonwealth.

*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. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary there shall be a  
2 special commission on judicial accountability to study the nomination, selection, appointment,  
3 and oversight of judges in the Commonwealth and to develop recommendations to improve  
4 accountability including reappointment standards.

5           The special commission shall consist of: three members to be appointed by the governor;  
6 two members of the House of Representatives, one of whom to be appointed by the Speaker of  
7 the House of Representatives, and the other to be appointed by the minority leader; two members  
8 of the Senate, one of whom to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and the other to be  
9 appointed by the minority leader; the president of the Massachusetts Bar Association or their  
10 designee; the president of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts or their

11 designee; president of the Barnstable Bar Association or their designee; the president of the  
12 Berkshire County Bar Association or their designee; president of the Boston Bar Association or  
13 their designee; president of the Bristol County Bar Association or their designee; president of the  
14 Essex County Bar Association or their designee; the president of the Franklin County Bar  
15 Association or their designee; president of the Hampden County Bar Association or their  
16 designee; president of the Hampshire County Bar Association or their designee; president of the  
17 League of Women Voters or their designee; president of the Massachusetts Association of  
18 Hispanic Attorneys or their designee; president of the Massachusetts Association of Women  
19 Lawyers or their designee; president of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association or their  
20 designee; president of the Massachusetts Judges Conference or their designee; president of the  
21 Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association or their designee; president of the Middlesex Bar  
22 Association or their designee; president of the Norfolk County Bar Association or their  
23 designee; president of the Plymouth County Bar Association or their designee; president of the  
24 Suffolk County Bar Association or their designee; president of the Woman’s Bar Association or  
25 their designee; and the president of the Worcester County Bar Association or their designee.

26           The commission shall elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair and any other  
27 officers it deems necessary. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for  
28 their services, other than as may be already provided for due to their position outside the  
29 commission. The commission may receive such funds to carry out its mission as may be  
30 authorized and appropriated or donated from time to time. The commission may request from all  
31 state agencies such information and assistance as the commission may require, which shall be  
32 provided as promptly as is reasonably practicable. The commission may: (i) use such voluntary  
33 and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may from time

34 to time be offered and needed; (ii) hold regular, public meetings and fact-finding hearings and  
35 other public forums as it may consider necessary. The commission shall convene its first meeting  
36 within one month of appointment and shall submit its first report of recommendations not later  
37 than December 1, 2019 to the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate who shall  
38 forward a copy of the report to the House and Senate chairs of the Joint Committee on the  
39 Judiciary.