SENATE DOCKET, NO. 385 FILED ON: 1/14/2019

SENATE . . . . . No. 973

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Jason M. Lewis*, (BY REQUEST)**

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 providing for the development of a Graduate Judicial Training School.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Vincent Lawrence Dixon	*60 Lake Street Unit N, Winchester, MA 01890*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 973

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 973) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to provide for the development of a Graduate Judicial Training School. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act providing for the development of a Graduate Judicial Training School.

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. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the following new chapter:

An Act to provide for the development of a Graduate Judicial Training School.

1.) Massachusetts, has been a leader in the advancement of law, while respecting the great foundations of law, that go back centuries. As time has evolved, societies, and laws, our Commonwealth has allowed, encouraged, and benefitted from the creation of a number of high quality accredited Graduate Law Schools.

2.) In similar manner, as society has become more sophisticated, concerns have grown regarding the quality of judges, and judging. Thus, it seems reasonable, logical, and appropriate, that there be considered, the creation of a Graduate Judicial Training School. Such a school

should be established; at first to develop highest quality continuing education for current judges; and shortly to develop an entry-level, professional training academy, graduate school to train capable, and talented individuals to be judges. Those eligible to be trained as judges, should be graduates of accredited Law Schools, and study at least one, to two years, in advanced training on the nature of judging, society, and effective and fair legal systems.

3.) It should be the intent of developing such a Graduate Judicial Training School, to facilitate the highest quality improvement of all judges, and legal hearing officers of The Commonwealth, so that ultimately, all such appointments, are drawn from graduates of a Massachusetts Graduate Judicial Training School, or a similar such qualifying program.

4.) In order to move in the direction of establishing a Graduate Judicial Training School, for The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, an Advisory Board for a Graduate Judicial Training School, shall be appointed, consisting of three (3) members appointed by the Governor, three (3) members appointed by the Attorney General, and the Deans of all accredited Law Schools within Massachusetts (or their designees).

5.) This Board shall convene, over a period of three years, and make important recommendations as to how to establish such a school, and also consider a long-term plan to convert the judicial appointment process, and that for all legal hearing officers, to the appointment of trained judges, educated by this process.