

SENATE No. 944

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 relative to advertising by a Justice of the Peace.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Dean A. Tran</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2019</i>

SENATE No. 944

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 944) of Anne M. Gobi and Dean A. Tran for legislation relative to advertising by justices of the peace for the solemnization of marriages. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 867 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to advertising by a Justice of the Peace.

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. Chapter 207 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
2 58 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 58. A justice of the peace or other person authorized to solemnize marriages may
4 advertise his or her name or any trade name, business address, telephone number, rate of
5 compensation as provided by law, regular hours of availability and any ability in a second
6 language and any present or former professional affiliation, in any public media, such as
7 telephone directory, electronic or computer accessed justice of the peace directory, newspaper or
8 other periodical, radio or television or through written, electronic, computer-accessed or similar
9 types of communication, including websites. Any person who advertises to perform or to procure
10 the performance of a marriage ceremony by any other means shall be punished by a fine of not

11 less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars. This section shall not be construed to prohibit
12 the use of a business card by a justice of the peace or other person authorized to perform
13 marriage ceremonies; and provided, further said card shall not display the seal of the
14 Commonwealth.