

HOUSE No. 5163

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches with reference to the Senate amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3089) of the House Bill to improve and modernize the information technology systems and capacities of the judiciary (House, No. 5076), reports, in part, recommending passage of the accompanying bill (House, No. 5163) [Bond Issue: General Obligation Bonds: \$165,500,000.00]. August 1, 2022.

Michael S. Day	William N. Brownsberger
Chynah Tyler	Cynthia Stone Creem
Todd M. Smola	

HOUSE No. 5163

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to improve and modernize the information technology systems and capacities of the judiciary.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to improve and modernize the information technology systems and capacities of the judiciary, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. To provide for a program to improve and modernize the information
2 technology infrastructure of the supreme judicial court, appeals court, trial court and departments
3 of the trial court of the commonwealth, the sums set forth in this act, for the several purposes and
4 subject to the conditions specified in this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws
5 regulating the disbursement of public funds; provided, however, that the amounts specified in an
6 item or for a particular project may be adjusted in order to facilitate projects authorized in this
7 act. The sums made available in this act shall be in addition to any amounts previously made
8 available for these purposes.

9 SECTION 2.

10 JUDICIARY

11 0330-6000 For costs associated with establishing digital courthouses and courtrooms;
12 provided, that projects funded in this item shall include an access to justice portal to enable
13 electronic file storage and electronic access to case information by court users; provided further,
14 that projects funded in this item shall include a remote video interpreting system; provided
15 further, that projects funded in this item shall include a content management system to manage
16 electronically filed documents, forms and evidence with a workflow engine to manage court
17 operations and enable system wide real-time docketing and data access; provided further, that
18 projects funded in this item shall include wireless internet access in courthouses for court staff
19 and court users; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include digital signage in
20 all courthouses; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include the costs
21 associated with planning for the replacement of a case management system for the trial court of
22 the commonwealth; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include replacement
23 of the appellate court case management system; provided further, that projects funded in this
24 item shall include a supreme judicial court digital reporting system that permits self-publishing
25 for the supreme judicial court and appeals court; provided further, that not less than \$1,000,000
26 shall be expended for the parole board of the department of correction to record and securely
27 store audio recordings of parole board hearings; provided further, that not less than \$500,000
28 shall be expended for New England Partners in Faith and Omnipoint Technology to provide
29 affordable and free internet service to the lowest income residents, with limited internet access,
30 impacted by the Judicial system, to promote equitable access to virtual filing and appearance
31 services of the court, court services, and public safety services in Liberty Heights, Memorial
32 Square, South End, Old Hill, Upper Hill, Six Corners, Bay, Pine Point, McKnight neighborhoods
33 and any other low-income neighborhood of Springfield; provided further, that projects funded in

34 this item shall include technology for direct electronic video conferencing with registrars’ and
35 magistrates’ offices of the trial court during hours of operation for attorneys and members of the
36 public; and provided further, that projects funded in this item shall be funded in consultation, as
37 applicable, with the secretary of technology services and
38 security.....\$95,000,000

39 SECTION 2A.

40 JUDICIARY

41 0330-6001 For costs associated with establishing a modern and secure judiciary;
42 provided, that projects funded in this item shall include costs associated with establishing a
43 digital security system to protect court systems, networks and data; provided further, that
44 projects funded in this item shall include court system-wide replacement of physical security
45 hardware, which shall include, but not be limited to, video surveillance systems, duress systems,
46 security scanning systems and inter-personnel communications equipment; provided further, that
47 funds in this item shall be expended for projects to support the safety of victims and witnesses
48 while in court-system facilities; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include
49 centralized law enforcement communication systems; and provided further, that projects funded
50 in this item shall be funded in consultation, as applicable, with the secretary of technology
51 services and security.....\$35,000,000

52 SECTION 2B.

53 JUDICIARY

54 0330-6002 For costs associated with the technological modernization of court
55 administrative operations; provided, that projects funded in this item shall include court system-
56 wide secure voice over internet protocol phone systems; provided further, that projects funded in
57 this item shall include an energy management system; provided further, that projects funded in
58 this item shall include a data storage system of sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the court
59 system; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include costs associated with
60 enterprise resource planning; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include
61 costs associated with establishing a virtual private network to enable court employee remote
62 access to court systems and data; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include
63 costs associated with increased bandwidth capacity in all court locations to accommodate a
64 digital court system; provided further, that not less than \$500,000 shall be expended for the
65 improvement and modernization of the information technology systems at the Framingham and
66 Natick District Court; and provided further, that projects funded in this item shall be funded in
67 consultation, as applicable, with the secretary of technology services and security....\$35,500,000

68 SECTION 3. Section 9B of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
69 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- Electronically imprinting
70 the established seal of a court in a form authorized by the supreme judicial court, appeals court,
71 the trial court or any department of the trial court of the commonwealth shall be taken and held
72 to be the seal of such court.

73 SECTION 3A. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
74 following section:-

75 Section 170. The parole board shall record and securely store all audio for all parole
76 board hearings. Audio from each parolee's hearing(s) shall be securely stored and may only be
77 deleted when that individual is no longer on parole or is deceased.

78 SECTION 4. Section 131 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
79 amended by striking out, in lines 6 to 8, inclusive, the words “, subject to such restrictions
80 relative to the possession, use or carrying of firearms as the licensing authority considers
81 proper”.

82 SECTION 5. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
83 amended by striking out, in lines 10 to 17, inclusive, the words “; provided, however, that the
84 licensing authority may impose such restrictions relative to the possession, use or carrying of
85 large capacity rifles and shotguns as it considers proper. A violation of a restriction imposed by
86 the licensing authority under this paragraph shall be cause for suspension or revocation and shall,
87 unless otherwise provided, be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000;
88 provided, however, that section 10 of chapter 269 shall not apply to a violation of this
89 paragraph.”

90 SECTION 6. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
91 amended by inserting after the word “of”, in lines 55, 256 and 364, in each instance, the
92 following words: - the department of.

93 SECTION 7. Subsection (d) of said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is
94 hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following
95 paragraph: -

96 A person residing or having a place of business within the jurisdiction of the licensing
97 authority or any law enforcement officer employed by the licensing authority or any person
98 residing in an area of exclusive federal jurisdiction located within a city or town may submit to
99 the licensing authority or the colonel of state police an application for a license to carry firearms,
100 or renewal of the same, which the licensing authority or the colonel shall issue if it appears that
101 the applicant is neither a prohibited person nor determined to be unsuitable to be issued a license
102 as set forth in this section, provided that upon an initial application for a license to carry
103 firearms, the licensing authority shall conduct a personal interview with the applicant.

104 SECTION 8. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
105 amended by striking out, in line 137, the words “or (C)” and inserting in place thereof the
106 following words: - (C) a permanent or temporary harassment prevention order issued pursuant to
107 chapter 258E or a similar order issued by another jurisdiction; or (D).

108 SECTION 9. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
109 amended by striking out, in line 147, the word “may” and inserting in place thereof the following
110 word:- shall.

111 SECTION 10. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
112 amended by striking out, in lines 149 and 150 the words “, in a reasonable exercise of discretion,
113 the licensing authority determines that”.

114 SECTION 11. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
115 amended by striking out, in lines 152 to 157, inclusive, the words “: (i) reliable and credible
116 information that the applicant or licensee has exhibited or engaged in behavior that suggests that,
117 if issued a license, the applicant or licensee may create a risk to public safety; or (ii) existing

118 factors that suggest that, if issued a license, the applicant or licensee may create a risk to public
119 safety” and inserting in place thereof the following words: - reliable, articulable and credible
120 information that the applicant or licensee has exhibited or engaged in behavior that suggests that,
121 if issued a license, the applicant or licensee may create a risk to public safety or a risk of danger
122 to self or others.

123 SECTION 12. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
124 amended by striking out, in line 225, the word “may” and inserting in place thereof the following
125 word:- shall.

126 SECTION 13. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
127 amended by striking out, in lines 239 and 240 the words “, suspension or restriction placed on”
128 and inserting in place thereof the following words:- or suspension of.

129 SECTION 14. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
130 amended by striking out, in lines 244 to 246, inclusive, the words “or, in the case of a restriction,
131 any time after a restriction is placed on the license pursuant to this section”.

132 SECTION 15. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
133 amended by striking out, in line 250, the words “, revoking or restricting” and inserting in place
134 thereof the following words:- or revoking.

135 SECTION 16. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
136 amended by striking out, in lines 253 and 254 the words “or may order the licensing authority to
137 remove certain restrictions placed on the license”.

138 SECTION 17. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
139 amended by striking out, in lines 266 and 267, 348, 360 and 361, 409 and 410, and 424, each
140 time they appear, the words “executive director of the criminal history systems board” and
141 inserting in place thereof the following words:- commissioner of the department of criminal
142 justice information services.

143 SECTION 17A. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
144 amended by striking out, in line 325, the words “Class A or Class B”.

145 SECTION 17B. Section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
146 inserting after the word “firearms”, in line 1, the following words:- , rifles or shotguns.

147 SECTION 18. Said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
148 amended by striking out, in line 2, the word “may” and inserting in place thereof the following
149 word:- shall.

150 SECTION 19. Said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
151 amended by striking out, in lines 6 to 8, inclusive, the words “and subject to such terms and
152 conditions as said colonel may deem proper; provided, however, that no license shall be issued to
153 a person who” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- if it appears that the applicant
154 is not a prohibited person and is not determined unsuitable to be issued a license as set forth in
155 section 131.

156 SECTION 20. The first paragraph of said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so
157 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out clauses (i) to (x), inclusive.

158 SECTION 21. Said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
159 amended by striking out, in line 55, the words “, if in his discretion,” and inserting in place
160 thereof the following word:- if.

161 SECTION 22. Said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further
162 amended by striking out, in lines 57 to 58, inclusive, the words “The colonel may issue such
163 license, subject to such terms and conditions as he deems proper,” and inserting in place thereof
164 the following words:- The colonel shall issue such license in accordance with the provisions of
165 section 131.

166 SECTION 23. Section 7 of chapter 185 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
167 amended by inserting after the word “court”, in line 7, the following words:- , or may be
168 electronically maintained by the recorder’s office.

169 SECTION 24. Said chapter 185 is hereby further amended by striking out section 9, as so
170 appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

171 Section 9. An authorized facsimile or electronic rendering of the recorder’s signature on
172 any court records, orders, decisions, documents or legal papers, or copies thereof, or upon any
173 writ, summons, order of notice, order of attachment or execution shall have the same validity as
174 a written signature of the recorder.

175 SECTION 25. Section 6 of chapter 185C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
176 amended by inserting after the word “affixed”, in lines 2 and 3, the following words:- or
177 electronically imprinted.

178 SECTION 26. Section 14 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
179 inserting after the word “papers”, in line 5, the following words:- , whether in physical or
180 electronic form,.

181 SECTION 27. Said section 14 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby further
182 amended by inserting after the word “thereof”, in line 17, the following words:- , whether in
183 physical or electronic form,.

184 SECTION 28. Said section 14 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby further
185 amended by inserting after the word “facsimile”, in line 20, the following words:- or electronic
186 rendering.

187 SECTION 29. Said section 14 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby further
188 amended by striking out, in line 21, the word “facsimile”.

189 SECTION 30. Section 22 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
190 inserting after the word “docket”, in line 4, the following words:- , including the electronic
191 docket.

192 SECTION 30A. (a). Section 1 of chapter 188 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
193 striking the definition of “Declared homestead exemption” and inserting in place thereof the
194 following: "Declared homestead exemption", an exemption in the amount of \$500,000 created by
195 a written declaration, executed and recorded pursuant to section 5; provided, however, that: (1)
196 with respect to a home owned by joint tenants or tenants by the entirety who are benefited by an
197 estate of homestead declared pursuant to section 3, the declared homestead exemption shall
198 remain whole and unallocated, provided that the owners together shall not be entitled to a
199 declared homestead exemption in excess of \$500,000; (2) if a home is owned by tenants in

200 common or trust beneficiaries, the declared homestead exemption for each co-tenant and trust
201 beneficiary who benefits by an estate of homestead declared pursuant to said section 3 shall be
202 the product of: (i) \$500,000 divided by (ii) the number of co-tenants or trust beneficiaries who
203 reside in the home as a principal residence; (3) except as provided in clause (4), each person who
204 owns a home and who is benefited by an estate of homestead declared pursuant to section 2 shall
205 be entitled to the declared homestead exemption without reduction, proration or allocation
206 among other owners of the home; and (4) separate estates of homestead may be declared
207 pursuant to sections 2 and 3 on the same home, and in such event: (i) if the home is owned by
208 tenants in common or trust beneficiaries, the declared homestead exemption for each co-tenant
209 and trust beneficiary who benefits by an estate of homestead declared pursuant to section 3 shall
210 be calculated in the manner provided in clause (2), and the declared homestead exemption for
211 each co-tenant and trust beneficiary who benefits by an estate of homestead declared pursuant to
212 section 2 shall be calculated in the manner provided in clause (3); or (ii) if the home is owned by
213 joint tenants or tenants by the entirety, the declared homestead exemption for the owners
214 together shall be the sum of \$500,000 multiplied by the number of declarations recorded
215 pursuant to section 2, plus \$250,000; provided, however, that the homestead exemption under
216 this subclause shall remain whole and unallocated among the owners; and provided further, that
217 no owner who declares a homestead, acting individually, shall be entitled to claim an exemption
218 of more than \$500,000; and (5) the calculation of the amount of homestead exemption available
219 to an owner shall not sever a joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety.

220 (b). Said section 1 of chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking the definition of
221 "Owner" and inserting in place thereof the following: "Owner", a natural person who is a sole
222 owner, joint tenant, tenant by the entirety, tenant in common, life estate holder, remainderman or

223 holder of a present, vested and non-contingent beneficial interest in a trust, including any of the
224 foregoing who is a lessee-shareholder of a residential cooperative housing unit.

225 (c). Subsection (b) of section 3 of said chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking clause
226 (6) and inserting in place thereof the following: (6) upon an execution issued from a court of
227 competent jurisdiction to enforce its judgment based upon fraud, duress, undue influence or lack
228 of capacity.

229 (d). Section 10 of said chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking subsections (a) and (b)
230 and inserting in place thereof the following two subsections: (a) An estate of homestead created
231 under section 3 or 4 may be terminated by any of the following methods: (1) a deed to a non-
232 family member conveying the home, signed by the owner and, if any, a non-owner spouse or
233 former spouse who resides in the home as a principal residence as of the date of the deed,
234 provided however, that a deed to a trustee of a trust for the benefit of a grantor shall not
235 terminate that grantor's existing homestead, which shall continue as to the interest of that grantor
236 as trust beneficiary; (2) a recorded release of the estate of homestead, duly signed and
237 acknowledged by the owner and, if any, a non-owner spouse or former spouse who resides in the
238 home as a principal residence as of the date of the release, which release may be executed by
239 those persons either separately or jointly; (3) the abandonment of the home as the principal
240 residence by the owner, the owner's spouse, former spouse or minor children, except that such
241 abandonment shall terminate only the rights of the persons who have abandoned the home;
242 provided, however, that no person in military service as defined in 50 U.S.C. appendix, section
243 511 shall be deemed to have abandoned the home due to such military service; (4) in the case of
244 a home the title to which is held in trust, by either: (i) the execution of a deed or a release of
245 homestead by the trustee; or (ii) action of a beneficial owner identified in the declaration, who is

246 not a minor child, taken in the same manner as provided in clauses (2) and (3); (5) the
247 subsequent recorded declaration of an estate of homestead under section 3 on other property,
248 except that such declaration shall terminate only the rights of the owner making such subsequent
249 declaration and the rights of that owner's spouse and minor children who reside or intend to
250 reside in the other property as their principal residence; (6) a deed setting forth (i) that the
251 grantor is unmarried or (ii) that the property is either not a home or not the grantor's home; (7) a
252 deed that includes a statement certified under the penalties of perjury that (i) there is no spouse
253 or former spouse entitled to an estate of homestead or (ii) the property is not the home of the
254 grantor's spouse or former spouse. (8) a recorded affidavit pursuant to section 5B of chapter 183
255 setting forth that, at the time of delivery of a deed, mortgage or other instrument of conveyance
256 to a non-family member, (i) the grantor was unmarried, or (ii) the grantor had no spouse or
257 former spouse entitled to claim the benefit of an existing estate of homestead, or (iii) the property
258 was not a home, or (iv) the property was not the home of the grantor or the grantor's spouse or
259 former spouse. The affidavit may be recorded simultaneously or subsequent to the deed,
260 mortgage or other instrument of conveyance; (9) a divorce judgment or decree of a court of
261 competent jurisdiction shall release the homestead of a spouse who (a) is required therein to
262 convey title to the home to the other spouse, or (b) was not an owner of the home and was not
263 awarded therein either title or possessory rights in the home; (b) No deed between spouses or
264 former spouses or co-owners who individually or jointly hold an estate of homestead under
265 section 3 or section 4 and no deed between a trustee and a trust beneficiary or between a life
266 tenant and a remainderman shall terminate the homestead unless each co-owner, spouse, former
267 spouse, trust beneficiary or remainderman entitled to the benefit of the homestead has executed
268 an express release thereof pursuant to clause (2) or clause (4) of subsection (a).

269 (e). Section 11 of said chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking subsection (a) and
270 inserting in place thereof the following: (a) If a home that is subject to an estate of homestead is
271 sold, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, taken or damaged by fire or other casualty, then the
272 proceeds of any such sale, taking or damage shall be entitled to the protection of this chapter
273 during the following periods: (1) in the event of a sale, whether voluntary or involuntary, or a
274 taking, for a period ending on the date on which the person benefited by the homestead either
275 acquires another home the person intends to occupy as a principal residence or 1 year after the
276 date on which the sale or taking occurred, whichever first occurs; and (2) in the event of a fire or
277 other casualty, for a period ending on: (i) the date upon which the reconstruction or repair to the
278 home is completed or the date on which the person benefited by the homestead acquires another
279 home the person intends to occupy as a principal residence; or (ii) 2 years after the date of the
280 fire or other casualty, whichever first occurs.

281 (f). Said chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking section 13 and inserting in place
282 thereof the following section: Section 13. A recorded deed, release, mortgage, affidavit or other
283 instrument of conveyance containing a statement of any facts set forth in clauses (6), (7) or (8) of
284 subsection (a) of section 10 may be relied upon by a good faith purchaser for value and shall be
285 conclusive proof of the parties, if any, then entitled to claim an estate of homestead. An affidavit
286 pursuant to clause (7) of subsection (a) of section 10 shall be accepted in the appropriate registry
287 of deeds or registration district of the land court. The subsequent residency or renewal of
288 residency in the home by a grantor or spouse of the grantor, releaser or mortgagor shall not
289 defeat the priority of a mortgage, release or conveyance accepted in reliance on such recorded
290 deed, release, mortgage, affidavit or other instrument of conveyance.

291 (g) The provisions of this Act shall apply to estates of homestead arising or created
292 before, on or after the effective date, except with respect to the subject matter of any final
293 judgment to the contrary by a court of competent jurisdiction in an action commenced prior to
294 said effective date.

295 SECTION 31. Section 3A of chapter 212 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
296 amended by inserting after the word “signed”, in line 4, the following words:- , by hand or by
297 electronic means,.

298 SECTION 32. Section 26 of said chapter 212, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
299 striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The records
300 of courts, including electronic records, which are transferred to the superior court shall remain in
301 custody of the clerks, whether in physical or electronic form.

302 SECTION 33. Said section 26 of said chapter 212, as so appearing, is hereby further
303 amended by inserting after the word “seal”, in line 8, the following words:- , which may be
304 electronically imprinted,.

305 SECTION 34. Section 36 of chapter 215 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
306 amended by striking out, in line 6, the words “books kept therefor” and inserting in place thereof
307 the following words:- books or electronically.

308 SECTION 35. Said section 36 of said chapter 215, as so appearing, is hereby further
309 amended by inserting after the word “process”, in line 16, the following words:- or
310 electronically.

311 SECTION 36. Section 53 of said chapter 215, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
312 inserting after the word “documents”, in line 4, the following words:- , whether in physical or
313 electronic form,.

314 SECTION 37. Section 15 of chapter 217 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
315 amended by inserting after the word “papers”, in line 2, the following words:- , whether in
316 physical or electronic form,.

317 SECTION 38. Section 26 of said chapter 217, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
318 inserting after the word “signing”, in line 1, the following words:- or electronic rendering.

319 SECTION 39. Section 2A of chapter 218 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
320 amended by inserting after the word “papers”, in line 6, the following words:- , whether in
321 physical or electronic form,.

322 SECTION 40. Section 12 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
323 inserting after the word “papers”, in line 10, the following words:- , whether in physical or
324 electronic form,.

325 SECTION 41. Section 13 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
326 inserting after the word “kept”, in line 3, the following words:- in the trial court electronic
327 document management system or.

328 SECTION 42. Section 14 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
329 inserting after the word “facsimile”, in lines 7 and 12, in each instance, the following words:- or
330 electronic rendering.

331 SECTION 43. Said section 14 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby further
332 amended by striking out, in line 8, the word “facsimile”.

333 SECTION 44. Said section 14 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby further
334 amended by striking out the words “Said facsimile”, in line 13, and inserting in place thereof the
335 following word:- Such.

336 SECTION 45. Section 44 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
337 inserting after the word “signed”, in line 2, the following words:- by hand or electronically.

338 SECTION 46. Section 14 of chapter 221 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
339 amended by inserting after the word “papers”, in line 4, the following words:- , whether in
340 physical or electronic form,.

341 SECTION 47. Section 17 of said chapter 221, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
342 striking out the word “A”, in line 1, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- An
343 authorized electronic rendering or a.

344 SECTION 48. Section 20 of chapter 223 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
345 amended by inserting after the word “signed”, in line 2, the following words:- , by hand or by
346 electronic means.

347 SECTION 48A. Section 20J of chapter 233 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
348 hereby amended by inserting after the word “worker”, in line 10, the following words:- , licensed
349 mental health counselor.

350 SECTION 49. Section 6 of chapter 248 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
351 amended by inserting after the word “signed”, in line 2, the following words:- , by hand or
352 electronically,.

353 SECTION 49A. Section 2A of chapter 276 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
354 hereby amended by inserting before the first sentence the following sentence:- The signature on
355 the warrant may be made by electronic signature.

356 SECTION 49B. Section 2B of said chapter 276, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
357 inserting after the word “personally”, in lines 1 and 2 and 38, in each instance, the following
358 words:- or through wire or electronic means.

359 SECTION 49C. Said section 2B of said chapter 276, as so appearing, is hereby further
360 amended by inserting after the word “form”, in line 13, the following words:- and the signature
361 therein be made by electronic signature.

362 SECTION 50. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for cases that
363 are electronically filed in any state court in the commonwealth, any statutory requirement of a
364 written signature on a document to be filed or any statutory requirement of a written signature in
365 communications between the court and a party shall be satisfied if the document includes a
366 signature in a form authorized by the supreme judicial court, the appeals court, the trial court of
367 the commonwealth or any department of the trial court.

368 SECTION 51. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2, the state
369 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
370 amount to be specified by the governor, but not exceeding in the aggregate \$95,000,000. All
371 such bonds issued by the commonwealth shall be designated on their face, Judiciary Information

372 Technology and Innovation Act of 2022, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not
373 exceeding 5 years, as the governor may recommend to the general court pursuant to section 3 of
374 Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. The bonds shall be payable not later than
375 June 30, 2032. All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be
376 payable from the General Fund. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,
377 bonds and interest thereon issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the
378 commonwealth.

379 SECTION 52. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2A, the state
380 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
381 amount to be specified by the governor, but not exceeding in the aggregate \$35,000,000. All
382 such bonds issued by the commonwealth shall be designated on their face, Judiciary Information
383 Technology and Innovation Act of 2022, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not
384 exceeding 5 years, as the governor may recommend to the general court pursuant to section 3 of
385 Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. The bonds shall be payable not later than
386 June 30, 2032. All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be
387 payable from the General Fund. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,
388 bonds and interest thereon issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the
389 commonwealth.

390 SECTION 53. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2B, the state
391 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
392 amount to be specified by the governor, but not exceeding in the aggregate \$35,500,000. All
393 such bonds issued by the commonwealth shall be designated on their face, Judiciary Information
394 Technology and Innovation Act of 2022, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not

395 exceeding 5 years, as the governor may recommend to the general court pursuant to section 3 of
396 Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. The bonds shall be payable not later than
397 June 30, 2032. All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be
398 payable from the General Fund. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,
399 bonds and interest thereon issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the
400 commonwealth.

401 SECTION 54. The unexpended balance in item 1102-5700, as authorized pursuant to
402 chapter 113 of the acts of 2018, shall be expended for the costs of the reconstruction or
403 replacement of court facilities located in the downtown area of the city of New Bedford.

404 SECTION 55. Sections 3, 3A and 23 to 50, inclusive, shall take effect 90 days after the
405 effective date of this act.