

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Joseph D. McKenna***

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*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 granting Indian tribes access to the Massachusetts courts.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>1/7/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1671 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act granting Indian tribes access to the Massachusetts courts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 221 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition is hereby  
2 amended by adding the following new section:

3 SECTION X:

4 Section 1. Individual or individuals serving on behalf of an Indian Tribe that has received  
5 official recognition by the Commission on Indian Affairs shall be granted permission to  
6 represent said Tribe on matters before the full legal system of Massachusetts and shall not be  
7 deemed to be in violation of M.G.L. Chapter 221, section 41, M.G.L. Chapter 221, Section 46A,  
8 or any other statute prohibiting self-representation or fraudulent practice of law.

9 Section2. Any individual or individuals representing an Indian Tribe before the courts in  
10 Massachusetts must submit to the courts an affidavit attesting to their status as a non-lawyer, that

11 they have not passed the Massachusetts bar, and that they are not representing themselves to be a  
12 licensed practitioner of law. Failure to provide such affidavit shall constitute a violation of  
13 M.G.L. Chapter 221, sections 41 and 46A.

14 Section 3. Such rights and privileges of 'self-representation' may only extend full Tribal  
15 matters and shall not extend to individual members of such Tribes.