

HOUSE No. 1375

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sheila C. Harrington

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 creating a commission to study simplifying the Trial Court.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>

HOUSE No. 1375

By Ms. Harrington of Groton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1375) of Sheila C. Harrington, Denise Andrews and Keiko M. Orrall for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the feasibility of organizing the Trial Court by combining efforts, resources and functions of the various court departments. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2184 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to creating a commission to study simplifying the Trial Court.

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. There shall be a special commission to study the feasibility of organizing
2 the trial court by combining efforts, resources and functions of the various court departments so
3 as to provide multiple services in locations which are easily accessible to residents in each of the
4 14 counties of the Commonwealth. The commission shall consist of 2 individuals appointed by
5 the senate president; provided, 1 shall be a member of the joint committee on the judiciary and 1
6 shall be a representative of a non-profit public policy institution; 2 individuals appointed by the
7 house speaker; provided, 1 shall be a member of the joint committee on the judiciary and 1 shall
8 be a representative of a non-profit public policy institution; 2 individuals appointed by the house
9 minority leader; provided, 1 shall be a member of the joint committee on the judiciary and 1 shall
10 be a representative of a non-profit public policy institution; 2 individuals appointed by the senate
11 minority leader; provided, 1 shall be a member of the joint committee on the judiciary and 1 shall
12 be a representative of a non-profit public policy institution; 8 justices of the trial court appointed
13 by the chief justice of administration and management; provided, 1 shall be from a district court
14 in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, or Hampden county, 1 shall be from a district court in
15 Middlesex, Essex, Plymouth, or Barnstable county, 1 shall be from a superior court in Norfolk or
16 Suffolk county, 1 shall be from a superior court in Dukes or Nantucket county, 2 shall be from
17 separate probate and family courts in Worcester and Middlesex counties, respectively, and 2

18 shall be from separate juvenile courts in Essex and Plymouth counties, respectively; 8
19 individuals appointed by the governor; provided, 2 shall be private-sector economists, 2 shall be
20 private-sector practicing attorneys, 2 shall be procurement specialists, and 2 shall be private-
21 sector business leaders. The commission shall make a comprehensive study of the feasibility of
22 organizing the trial court by combining efforts, resources and functions of the various court
23 departments so as to provide multiple services in locations which are easily accessible to
24 residents in each of the 14 counties of the Commonwealth; provided, the study will identify cost
25 savings; provided, the study will include the cost effectiveness of leasing court space and owning
26 court space; provided, the study will include the feasibility of providing court services to
27 residents via an official website of the Commonwealth. The commission shall convene its first
28 official meeting not later than August 1, 2011. The commission shall prepare a report of the
29 findings and recommendations together with recommendations for legislation to implement those
30 recommendations by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and house not later than July
31 31, 2012. The commission shall not receive compensation.