

HOUSE No. 1151

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James Arciero

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 service trained dogs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James Arciero

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

2nd Middlesex

HOUSE No. 1151

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1151) of James Arciero for legislation to authorize the presence of service trained dogs for certain victims and witnesses who are minor children or adults with disabilities. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1172 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to service trained dogs.

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 Section 3 of chapter 258B of the general laws is hereby further amended
2 by inserting, at the end thereof, the following new subsections:-

3 (w) for victims and witnesses who are minor children or adults with disabilities as
4 defined in subsection (k) of section 13 of chapter 265, as so appearing, notwithstanding any law
5 to the contrary, to have a trained service dog with the victim or witness, in addition to the victim
6 witness advocate, in the courtroom during the child’s or adult’s court proceedings, including
7 testimony, unless, in written findings made and entered, the court finds that the defendant’s
8 constitutional right to a fair trial will be prejudiced; For purposes of this section, a trained
9 service dog shall mean a dog and their handler who hold a public access certificate from
10 Assistance Dog International. Said dog will have a minimum of two years of extensive and

- 11 specialized training and be handled by an individual working professionally in the area of victim
- 12 services.