

HOUSE No. 897

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jay D. Livingstone

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 regarding testimony after grant of immunity to a witness.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jay D. Livingstone

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

8th Suffolk

HOUSE No. 897

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 897) of Jay D. Livingstone relative to testimony after grant of immunity to witnesses. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act regarding testimony after grant of immunity to a witness.

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 20H of Chapter 233 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2015
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the existing section and replacing it with the
3 following:

4 Section 20H. If a witness has been granted immunity pursuant to the provisions of section
5 twenty E and thereafter refuses to testify or produce evidence after being so ordered by the
6 Court, the attorney general or district attorney shall institute contempt proceedings against such
7 witness in the court where the alleged contempt occurred, and, after hearing or trial, if such
8 witness is adjudged to be in contempt of court, they shall be punished, if they have attained the
9 age of eighteen, by imprisonment in the state prison or the house of correction for a term not to
10 exceed the maximum penalty for the crime which is the subject of the grand jury investigation or
11 criminal proceeding, or until they comply with the order of the court, whichever occurs first. A
12 witness who has not attained the age of eighteen shall, if found in contempt, be committed to the
13 Department of Youth Services for a period not to exceed one year, or until they comply with the

14 order of the court, whichever occurs first. The rules of practice and procedure relative to
15 criminal appeals as provided by the Massachusetts Rules of Criminal Procedure and the
16 Massachusetts Rules of Appellate Procedure shall apply to appeals under this section.