

SENATE No. 1519

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 encouraging lawyers to practice public interest law.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

SENATE No. 1519

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1519) of James B. Eldridge, Jason M. Lewis, Walter F. Timilty and Eric P. Lesser for legislation to encourage lawyers to practice public interest law. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act encouraging lawyers to practice public interest law.

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 6 of chapter 62 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (r) the following subsection:-

3 (t) A graduate of an accredited Massachusetts law school who is practicing public interest
4 law as defined by the public service commission shall be allowed a credit equal to the amount of
5 money that the graduate paid toward a law school loan in the preceding tax year; provided,
6 however that the amount of the credit shall never exceed total amount of the loan.

7 SECTION 2. There is hereby established a public service commission. The purpose of
8 the commission shall be to evaluate and categorize public legal services and to determine which
9 legal services are provided directly to clients for the purposes of the tax credit enumerated in
10 section 6 subsection (t) of chapter 62 of the general laws. Types of such services shall include
11 but not be limited to, legal services corporations, public defenders offices, district attorneys'
12 offices, attorney generals offices and employment with other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

13 The commission shall be responsible for making determinations as to the validity of the public
14 legal services offered. The commission shall also conduct a study to encourage participation in
15 public law services and furnish a study which will recommend tuition reimbursement programs
16 to reduce law school loans. The commission shall be composed of the attorney general, who
17 shall chair the commission, one representative appointed by the governor, the chair of the
18 committee for public counsel or his designee, one representative appointed by the president of
19 the senate and one representative appointed by the speaker of the house and one representative
20 appointed by the chief administrative justice of the trial court. The commission shall file its
21 report with the clerks of the house and senate by March 31, 2018.