

SENATE No. 2122

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen
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SENATE, Thursday, May 1, 2014

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill to ensure access to the Hampden County courts in the city of Springfield (Senate, No. 2032), reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2122).

For the committee,
Stephen M. Brewer

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An Act to ensure access to the Hampden County courts in the city of Springfield.

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

1 (a) The division of capital asset management and maintenance, in consultation with the
2 chief justice of the trial court, the court administrator, the secretary of transportation, the
3 secretary of administration and finance and the state senators and representatives from the city of
4 Springfield, shall issue a report on the Hampden County Court Complex located in the city of
5 Springfield. The report shall be filed with the executive office for administration and finance, the
6 house and senate committees on ways and means and the house and senate committees on
7 bonding, capital expenditures and state assets not later than August 15, 2014.

8 (b) The report shall investigate and make recommendations on:

9 (i) the impact of the reconstruction of the interstate 91 viaduct on public safety and
10 public access to the court facilities;

11 (ii) the damage the court facilities sustained as a result of the 2011 tornado and the
12 possibility of damage from proposed demolition and construction in the area;

13 (iii) the temporary relocation of the courts and personnel during any construction or
14 relocation;

15 (iv) the fair market value of the Hampden County Court Complex;

16 (v) the feasibility of constructing a courthouse in the city of Springfield that includes
17 wireless technology, data storage and real time courtroom audio and visual technology;

18 (vi) the feasibility of constructing a new courthouse at alternative locations;

19 (vii) the accessibility of any proposed relocation site to low-income residents of
20 Hampden county and the city of Springfield;

21 (viii) the fiscal impacts of any relocation or construction plan on Hampden county and
22 the commonwealth;

23 (ix) the potential for construction and other full-time permanent jobs, which might benefit
24 the citizens and communities of Hampden county;

25 (x) the feasibility of designing a courthouse with advanced and stringent environmental
26 standards;

27 (xi) the integration of the courthouse to the community at large, as well as local colleges,
28 universities and law schools;

29 (xii) an analysis of the economic impact of any proposed reconstruction or relocation on
30 businesses located on State Street in the city of Springfield;

31 (xiii) any inadequacies of the current design of the Hampden County Court Complex;

32 (xiv) the design and construction costs of courthouses built in the last 10 years in the
33 commonwealth; and

34 (xv) any other matters the division considers appropriate, including legislation necessary
35 to execute plans contained in the report.