

SENATE No. 831

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi

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 advertising by a justice of the peace.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Anne M. Gobi

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex

Carolyn C. Dykema

8th Middlesex

SENATE No. 831

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 831) of Anne M. Gobi and Carolyn C. Dykema relative to advertising by justices of the peace for the solemnization of marriages. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1362 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to advertising by a justice of the peace.

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. Chapter 207 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
2 58 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 58. A Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to solemnize marriages may
4 advertise his or her name or any trade name, business address, telephone number, rate of
5 compensation as provided by law, regular hours of availability and any ability in a second
6 language and any present or former professional affiliation, in any public media, such as
7 telephone directory, electronic or computer accessed justice of the peace directory, newspaper or
8 other periodical, radio or television or through written, electronic, computer-accessed or similar
9 types of communication, including websites. However, whoever advertises to perform or to
10 procure the performance of a marriage ceremony by any other means shall be punished by a fine

11 of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars. This section shall not be construed to
12 prohibit the use of a business card by a Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to perform
13 marriage ceremonies; and provided, further said card shall not display the seal of the
14 Commonwealth.