HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3243 FILED ON: 1/18/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1172

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to service trained dogs .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James Arciero	*2nd Middlesex*
Laurie Myers	*7 Pine Hill Avenue* *Chelmsford, MA 01824*
Colleen M. Garry	*36th Middlesex*
Thomas A. Golden, Jr.	*16th Middlesex*
Kate Hogan	*3rd Middlesex*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3243 FILED ON: 1/18/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1172

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1172) of James Arciero and others 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.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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:

SECTION 1 Section 3 of chapter 258B of the general laws is hereby further amended by inserting, at the end thereof, the following new subsections:-

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