HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2729 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2150

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Garrett J. Bradley

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 court proceedings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Garrett J. Bradley	*3rd Plymouth*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2729 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2150

By Mr. Bradley of Hingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2150) of Garrett J. Bradley relative to the selection of jurors. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to court proceedings.

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

Section 28 of Chapter 234 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the following after the second paragraph:

Notwithstanding the above, in all jury trials, both criminal and civil, the following procedures shall govern.

(l) In addition to whatever jury voir dire of the jury venire is conducted by the court, and subject to the provisions in subparagraph (3) of this act for the Commonwealth in criminal cases involving multiple defendants, the court shall permit, upon the request of any party or any party's attorney, the party or the party's attorney to conduct, under the direction of the court, an oral examination of the jury venire.

(2) The court may impose reasonable limitations upon the questions allowed during such examination. Additional time may be granted in the discretion of the court.

(3) In criminal cases involving multiple defendants, the Commonwealth shall be entitled to the same amount of time as that to which all defendants together are entitled.

(4) This act shall not limit the number of peremptory challenges a party is entitled to by statute or court rule.