HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2719 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2184

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sheila C. Harrington

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 creating a commission to study simplifying the Trial Court.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Sheila C. Harrington	*1st Middlesex*
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	*20th Middlesex*
Elizabeth A. Poirier	*14th Bristol*
Denise Andrews	*2nd Franklin*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 2184

By Ms. Harrington of Groton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2184) of Sheila C. Harrington and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of the feasibility of organizing the Trial Court by combining efforts, resources and functions of the various court departments. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to creating a commission to study simplifying the Trial Court.

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. There shall be a special commission to study the feasibility of organizing the trial court by combining efforts, resources and functions of the various court departments so as to provide multiple services in locations which are easily accessible to residents in each of the 14 counties of the Commonwealth. The commission shall consist of 2 individuals appointed by the senate president; provided, 1 shall be a member of the joint committee on the judiciary and 1 shall be a representative of a non-profit public policy institution; 2 individuals appointed by the house speaker; provided, 1 shall be a member of the joint committee on the judiciary and 1 shall be a representative of a non-profit public policy institution; 2 individuals appointed by the house minority leader; provided, 1 shall be a member of the joint committee on the judiciary and 1 shall be a representative of a non-profit public policy institution; 2 individuals appointed by the senate minority leader; provided, 1 shall be a member of the joint committee on the judiciary and 1 shall be a representative of a non-profit public policy institution; 8 justices of the trial court appointed by the chief justice of administration and management; provided, 1 shall be from a district court in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, or Hampden county, 1 shall be from a district court in Middlesex, Essex, Plymouth, or Barnstable county, 1 shall be from a superior court in Norfolk or Suffolk county, 1 shall be from a superior court in Dukes or Nantucket county, 2 shall be from separate probate and family courts in Worcester and Middlesex counties, respectively, and 2 shall be from separate juvenile courts in Essex and Plymouth counties, respectively; 8 individuals appointed by the governor; provided, 2 shall be private-sector economists, 2 shall be private-sector practicing attorneys, 2 shall be procurement specialists, and 2 shall be private-sector business leaders. The commission shall make a comprehensive study of the feasibility of organizing the trial court by combining efforts, resources and functions of the various court departments so as to provide multiple services in locations which are easily accessible to residents in each of the 14 counties of the Commonwealth; provided, the study will identify cost

25 savings; provided, the study will include the cost effectiveness of leasing court space and owning
26 court space; provided, the study will include the feasibility of providing court services to
27 residents via an official website of the Commonwealth. The commission shall convene its first
28 official meeting not later than August 1, 2011. The commission shall prepare a report of the
29 findings and recommendations together with recommendations for legislation to implement those
30 recommendations by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and house not later than July
31 31, 2012. The commission shall not receive compensation.