HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 577 FILED ON: 1/18/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 414

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James M. Cantwell

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 the safety of judges.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James M. Cantwell	*4th Plymouth*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 577 FILED ON: 1/18/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 414

By Mr. Cantwell of Marshfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 414) of James M. Cantwell for legislation to protect justices of the Commonwealth and their families from criminal acts and threats. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *1316* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to the safety of judges.

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. Chapter 12 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding thereto the following:-

Section 11M. The attorney general shall exercise exclusive authority to investigate and prosecute all criminal acts and threats made against any justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, the justices of the Appeals Court or the justices of the several departments of the Trial Court and their immediate family members. In the exercise of this authority, the attorney general shall have the resources of the department of the State Police to assist in the investigation and prosecution of such cases and for the protection of the members of the judiciary in any such instance.

SECTION 2. Chapter 268 of the General Laws, as so appearing the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following:-

Section 13D. Any person convicted of making threats against any justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, the justices of the Appeals Court or the justices of the several departments of the Trial Court or their immediate family members shall be punished by up to two and one-half years in the house of correction or up to ten years in state prison and up to a $25,000 fine.

17 SECTION 3. Section 26 of chapter 218 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2006
18 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding in line 23, after the words “sixty eight”, the
19 words:- “threats against members of the judiciary under section 13D of chapter 268”.