

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1465**

By Ms. Gobi of Spencer, petition of Anne M. Gobi and others relative to advertising by justices of the peace for the solemnization of marriages. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PETITION OF:

Anne M. Gobi	Pam Richardson
Robert L. Rice, Jr.	Stephen M. Brewer
Cleon H. Turner	Todd M. Smola
Jeffrey Davis Perry	Jennifer M. Callahan
Frank M. Hynes	Karen E. Spilka
Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association, Inc.	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

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 Chapter 207 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
2 out section 58 and inserting in place thereof the following section:—  
3 Section 58. A Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to  
4 solemnize marriages may advertise his or her name or any trade  
5 name, business address, telephone number, rate of compensation as  
6 provided by law, regular hours of availability and any ability in a  
7 second language and any present or former professional affiliation,  
8 in any public media, such as telephone directory, electronic or com-  
9 puter accessed justice of the peace directory, newspaper or other  
10 periodical, radio or television or through written, electronic, com-  
11 puter-accessed or similar types of communication, including web-  
12 sites. However, whoever advertises to perform or to procure the  
13 performance of a marriage ceremony by any other means shall be  
14 punished by a fine of not less than ten nor more than one hundred  
15 dollars. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the use of a

16 business card by a Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to  
17 perform marriage ceremonies; and provided, further said card shall  
18 not display the seal of the Commonwealth.