

HOUSE No. 2892

By Mr. Eldridge of Acton, petition of James B. Eldridge and others for legislation to encourage lawyers to practice public interest law. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

James B. Eldridge
Barbara A. L'Italien

David Paul Linsky
Alice Hanlon Peisch

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE LAWYERS TO PRACTICE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 6 of Chapter 62 of the general laws, as
2 appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after subsection (k) the following subsection:—
4 (l) A graduate of an accredited Massachusetts law school who is
5 practicing public interest law shall be allowed a credit equal to the
6 amount of money that the graduate is paying for law school loans;
7 provided, however that the graduate is actually practicing public
8 interest law, as determined by the public service commission, and
9 provided further that the amount of the credit shall never exceed the
10 gross amount of law school tuition.

1 SECTION 2. There is hereby established a public service com-
2 mission. The purpose of the commission shall be to evaluate and cat-
3 egorize public legal services and to determine which legal services
4 are provided directly to clients for the purposes of the tax credits
5 enumerated in section 1. Types of such services shall include but not
6 be limited to, legal services corporations, public defenders offices,
7 district attorneys offices, attorney generals offices and employment
8 with other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. The commission shall

9 be responsible for making determinations as to the validity of the
10 public legal services offered. The commission shall also conduct a
11 study to encourage participation in public law services and furnish a
12 study which will recommend tuition reimbursement programs to
13 reduce law school loans. The commission shall be composed of the
14 attorney general, who shall chair the commission, one representative
15 appointed by the governor, the chair of the committee for public
16 counsel or his designee, one representative appointed by the presi-
17 dent of the senate and one representative appointed by the speaker of
18 the house and one representative appointed by the chief administra-
19 tive justice of the trial court. The commission shall file its report
20 with the clerks of the house and senate by March 31, 2008.