

# SENATE NO. 962

## **AN ACT** TO REQUIRE VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR TAXPAYER ASSUMPTION OF COURT COSTS AS AN INDIGENT PERSON

*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 27A of chapter 261 of the general laws as most recently appearing in the 2000  
2 Official Edition is hereby amended, by inserting after the word “clothing” in clause (c) the  
3 following:

4 provided, however, that an independent credit check is completed that verifies the person’s inability  
5 to contribute all or a portion of the costs through a personal loan, home equity loan or other means,

6 SECTION 2. Section 6 of chapter 211D of the general laws as most recently appearing in the 2000  
7 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting in subsection (a) after the words, “criminal  
8 defendants,” the following,

9 provided, however, that an independent credit check is completed that verifies the person’s inability  
10 to contribute all or a portion of the costs through a personal loan, home equity loan or other means,

11 SECTION 3. The chief administrative justice of the trial court of the commonwealth is hereby  
12 authorized and directed to establish from time to time a fair and equitable standard for the  
13 determination of the provision of free or reduced cost legal representation of persons claiming to be  
14 indigent and unable to afford legal representation.

15 SECTION 4. All monies received by the Judicial Branch as reimbursement, in whole or in part, for  
16 costs of legal representation shall be deposited in a fund within the office of the chief administrative  
17 justice of the trial court for disbursement without further appropriation for expenses of the Judicial  
18 Branch, provided however, that such fund shall be subject to audit by the State Auditor, which shall  
19 be public record.