

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1415**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Denise C. Garlick***

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*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act further regulating the appointment of certain guardians.**

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Denise C. Garlick*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*13th Norfolk*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1415**

By Ms. Garlick of Needham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1415) of Denise C. Garlick relative to further regulating the appointment of certain guardians by the Probate Court. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act further regulating the appointment of certain guardians.

*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 5-305 of chapter 190B of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
2 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsections (c) and (d) and inserting in  
3 place thereof the following subsection:-

4 (c) Except as provided in subsection (b), the following, if suitable, are entitled to the  
5 presumption that they are the proper person for appointment as guardian of an incapacitated  
6 person by the court in the order listed; provided, however, that such presumption may be  
7 rebutted by the introduction of competent evidence:

8 (1) the spouse of the incapacitated person or a person nominated by will of a deceased  
9 spouse or by other writing signed by the spouse and attested to by at least 2 witnesses;

10 (2) the parent or parents of the incapacitated person, or a person nominated pursuant to  
11 section 5-301; and

12 (3) any person the court deems appropriate.

13 A spouse, parent or parents wishing to designate a third party to serve as guardian of such  
14 person may freely elect to do so without prejudice. In such instances, the party so designated  
15 shall be presumed to be the proper person to be appointed by the court. Such presumption may be  
16 rebutted by the introduction of competent evidence.