

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 02175**

---

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESENTED BY:

*Anne M. Gobi*

\_\_\_\_\_

*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 bill:

An Act relative to advertising by a justice of the peace.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

-----  
*Anne M. Gobi*

-----  
*5th Worcester*

-----  
*Todd M. Smola*

-----  
*1st Hampden*

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 02175

By Ms. Gobi of Spencer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2175) of Smola and Gobi relative to advertising by justices of the peace for the solemnization of marriages Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 1406 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 SECTION 1. Chapter 207 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 58 and  
2 inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 58. A Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to solemnize marriages may  
4 advertise his or her name or any trade name, business address, telephone number, rate of  
5 compensation as provided by law, regular hours of availability and any ability in a second  
6 language and any present or former professional affiliation, in any public media, such as  
7 telephone directory, electronic or computer accessed justice of the peace directory, newspaper or  
8 other periodical, radio or television or through written, electronic, computer-accessed or similar  
9 types of communication, including websites. However, whoever advertises to perform or to

10 procure the performance of a marriage ceremony by any other means shall be punished by a fine  
11 of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars. This section shall not be construed to  
12 prohibit the use of a business card by a Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to perform  
13 marriage ceremonies; and provided, further said card shall not display the seal of the  
14 Commonwealth.