

HOUSE No. 3774

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul F. Tucker

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 relative to a special commission on attorney-client fee disputes.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul F. Tucker

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

7th Essex

HOUSE No. 3774

By Mr. Tucker of Salem, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3774) of Paul F. Tucker for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to attorney-client fee disputes. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to a special commission on attorney-client fee disputes.

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

1 There shall be established a special legislative commission pursuant to section 2A of
2 chapter 4 of the General Laws, to study best practices for the mediation of attorney-client fee
3 disputes, which shall investigate and study the need for attorney-client fee dispute mediation
4 services for residents of the commonwealth. The commission shall consist of 2 members of the
5 senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president and who shall serve as co-chair of
6 the commission, and 1 of whom shall be a member of the minority party to be appointed by the
7 senate minority leader; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be the
8 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and who shall serve as co-chair of the
9 commission, and 1 of whom shall be a member of the minority party who shall be appointed by
10 the House minority leader; the commissioner of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, or a
11 designee; the attorney general, or a designee; a representative to be appointed by the
12 Massachusetts Bar Association; a representative of the community mediation centers, as defined

13 in section 47 of chapter 75 of the General Laws, to be appointed by the Massachusetts office of
14 public collaboration; and 1 person to be appointed by the Governor.

15 The commission shall study geographic areas of the commonwealth to determine the
16 need for programs to address attorney-client fee disputes. The commission shall report to general
17 court the results of its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together with
18 drafts of legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, by filing the same
19 with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives not later than December 31, 2021.