

HOUSE No. 4123

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act relative to certain judicial procedures.

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 13B of chapter 231 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- In civil actions in the
3 superior court, parties, through their counsel, may suggest a specific monetary amount for
4 damages at trial.

5 SECTION 2. Section 28 of Chapter 234 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
6 adding the following paragraph:

7 Notwithstanding the above, in all superior court jury trials, both criminal and civil, the
8 following procedures shall govern:

9 (1) In addition to whatever jury voir dire of the jury venire is conducted by the court, and
10 subject to the provisions in clause(3) for the commonwealth in criminal cases involving
11 multiple defendants, the court shall permit, upon the request of any party or any party's attorney,
12 the party or the party's attorney to conduct, under the direction of the court, an oral examination
13 of the jury venire.

14 (2) The court may impose reasonable limitations upon the questions allowed during such
15 examination. Additional time may be granted in the discretion of the court.

16 (3) In criminal cases involving multiple defendants, the commonwealth shall be entitled
17 to the same amount of time as that to which all defendants together are entitled.

18 (4) This paragraph shall not limit the number of peremptory challenges a party is entitled
19 to by statute or court rule.