HOUSE . . . . No. 903

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

_____

PRESENTED BY:

Paul McMurtry

_____

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 legal assistance in divorce proceedings.

_____

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
James R. Miceli	*19th Middlesex*

HOUSE . . . . No. 903

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 903) of Paul McMurtry and James R. Miceli for legislation to authorize the Chief Justice of the Trial Court to provide informational notices to respondents in any divorce proceedings. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *3447* OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

_____

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

_____

An Act relative to legal assistance in divorce proceedings.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the chief justice

2   of the trial court of the commonwealth shall develop an informational notice that shall be

3   provided to respondents in any divorce proceeding. The notice shall be provided with any

4   service of a copy of the summons.   The notice shall contain, but shall not be limited to, the

5   following information: (1) lawyer referral assistance; (2) legal services and aid resources

6   available; (3) a basic summary of civil procedure applicable to divorce and alimony; (4) parent

7   and family education and informational workshops available; (5) court fee structures; (6) and the

8   rights and responsibilities of the respondents.

9   SECTION 2. The chief justice of the trial court of the commonwealth shall develop and

10 provide the informational notice required by section 1 within 120 days from the effective date of

11 this act.