

**SENATE . . . . . No. 821**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Michael J. Barrett***

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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 to eliminate the public counsel fee.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Michael J. Barrett*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Third Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 821**

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By Mr. Barrett, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 821) of Michael J. Barrett for legislation to eliminate the public counsel fee. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act to eliminate the public counsel fee.

*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. Subsection (f) of section 2A of chapter 211D of the General Laws, as  
2 amended by section 107 of chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018, is hereby amended by striking out in  
3 the first two sentences, each time it appears, the figure “\$150” and inserting in place thereof, in  
4 each instance, the following figure:- \$100.

5           SECTION 2. Subsection (f) of section 2A of chapter 211D of the General Laws, as  
6 amended by section 107 of chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018, is hereby amended by striking out in  
7 the first two sentences, each time it appears, the figure “\$100” and inserting in place thereof, in  
8 each instance, the following figure:- \$50.

9           SECTION 3. Section 2A of chapter 211D of the General Laws, as amended by section  
10 107 of chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (f), and  
11 inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

12 (f) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no person determined to  
13 be indigent shall be assessed a counsel fee.

14 SECTION 4. Section 1 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

15 SECTION 5. Section 2 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

16 SECTION 6. Section 3 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.