

**SENATE . . . . . No. 00867**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*Karen E. Spilka*

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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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to enhance safety and security in courthouses .

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Karen E. Spilka</i>	<i>Second Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas P. Kennedy</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 00867**

By Ms. Spilka, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 867) of Kennedy, Dykema and Spilka for legislation to enhance safety and security in courthouses [Joint Committee on the Judiciary].

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to enhance safety and security in courthouses .

*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 265 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 13D the following section:-

3 Section 13D1/4. Whoever commits an assault, or an assault and battery, in or on the  
4 property owned, leased or occupied by the Massachusetts judicial department or an agency or  
5 committee thereof, including any trial or appellate court, during the time when the courts are in  
6 session or open to the public may be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more  
7 than 3 years or by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 2 1/2 years, or  
8 by a fine of not more than \$25,000 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

9 SECTION 2: Section 13C of chapter 268 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
10 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in its  
11 place the following:-

12           Whoever causes or actively participates in the willful disruption of proceedings of any  
13 court of the commonwealth may be punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for  
14 not more than 2 1/2 years or in state prison for not more than 3 years, or by a fine of not more  
15 than \$5000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

16           SECTION 3: Section 4 of chapter 275 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
17 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in its place the  
18 following:-

19 If the person complained of is convicted, he may be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or  
20 by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, provided that any threat to cause bodily injury to a  
21 person on account of the person's performance of official duties as a judge or employee of the  
22 judicial department, including but not limited to clerk magistrates, probation officers,  
23 interpreters, stenographers, and court officers, prosecutors and attorneys, may be punished by  
24 imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 2 1/2 years or in state prison for  
25 not more than 3 years, or by a fine of not more than \$5000, or by both such fine and  
26 imprisonment.