

SENATE No. 825

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James E. Timilty

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:

An Act relative to improving the bail review process.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James E. Timilty

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Bristol and Norfolk

SENATE No. 825

By Mr. Timilty, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 825) of James E. Timilty for legislation relative to improving the bail review and rendition process. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE

☐ SENATE
☐ , NO. 899 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to improving the bail review process.

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 58 of Chapter 276, as so appearing, is hereby amended
2 in line 105 by adding a paragraph break after the words “reasonably possible.”

3 Said section 58 is further amended in line 114 by striking the words “by
4 telephone” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-- by writing delivered in hand or
5 by facsimile or electronic transmission that same day

6 Said section 58 is further amended in lines 133 to 139 by striking the words
7 “on the same day the petition shall have been filed, unless the district court or detaining authority
8 shall determine that such appearance and hearing on the petition cannot practically take place
9 before the adjournment of the sitting of said superior court for that day and in which event, the
10 petitioner shall be caused to be brought before said court for such hearing during the morning of
11 the next business day of the sitting of said superior court.” and inserting in place thereof the
12 following words:-- on the third business day of the sitting of said superior court after the petition
13 shall have been filed, unless said superior or district court orders otherwise for good cause
14 shown.

15 Said section 58 is further amended by striking the paragraph at lines 150 to
16 161 and inserting in place thereof the following:--

17 The justice of the superior court shall review the order of the district court and
18 the reasons given by the district court. Unless the justice of the superior court determines that
19 the district court committed a clear error of law or fact, or set a clearly excessive bail, the justice
20 shall remand the prisoner in accordance with the terms of the process by which he was ordered
21 committed by the district court. If the justice of the superior court determines that the district
22 court committed a clear error of law or fact, or set a clearly excessive bail, the justice shall
23 consider the standards set forth in the first paragraph of this section and may order that the
24 petitioner be released on bail on his personal recognizance without surety, or, in his discretion,
25 make any other order of bail or recognizance. If the justice of the superior court finds the district
26 court made a clear error of law or fact, or set a clearly excessive bail, he shall put his decision
27 and the reasons for any reduction or increase in writing.

28 SECTION 2. Section 4 of Section 58A of Chapter 276, as so appearing, is
29 hereby amended in line 96 by deleting the words “held under arrest” and inserting thereof the
30 words:-- charged with