

HOUSE No. 974

By Mr. Ingalls of Lynn, petition of Samuel I. Jacobs for legislation to establish a lien for the services of attorneys at law. Judiciary (Joint).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-One.

An Act establishing a Lien for Attorney's Services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter two hundred and twenty-one of the Gen-
2 eral Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
3 section fifty, the following new sections:—
4 *Section 50A.* Whenever the relationship of attor-
5 ney and client has been entered into, under an ex-
6 press power of attorney in writing for services,
7 wherein the attorney does not agree to be responsible
8 for costs of suit, the attorney shall have a lien to
9 the value of his contractual interest in the cause
10 of action, claim, demand or counter-claim, or where
11 a cause of action or other matter is pending, the
12 attorney's express agreement under the terms of
13 the written power of attorney shall begin to operate
14 as a lien, and no settlement either before or after
15 judgment shall invalidate it, but the same may be
16 enforced like any other lien against the money or

17 thing of value which is the consideration for the
18 settlement, or the parties, if they have made a
19 settlement, may be proceeded against jointly or
20 severally in an action at law, and shall be jointly
21 or severally liable to the attorney for the full value
22 of his lien, in accordance with his interest as is
23 stipulated in the written power of attorney.

24 *Section 50B.* This act shall take effect upon its
25 passage.

