

HOUSE No. 808

By Mr. Lindstrom of Cambridge (by request), petition of Arthur Blanchard for appointment of a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study the advisability and feasibility of the establishment of a layman's court to give counsel to persons in cases of unjust action by members of the bar. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR A STUDY AND INVESTIGATION BY AN UNPAID SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE ADVISABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LAYMAN'S COURT TO GIVE COUNSEL AND PROTECTION TO PERSONS OF MODERATE MEANS IN CASES OF ALLEGED UNJUST OR ARBITRARY ACTION OR THREAT OF ACTION BY A MEMBER OF THE BAR.

1 *Resolved*, That an unpaid special commission, no
2 member of which shall be a member of the bar, to
3 consist of one member of the senate to be designated
4 by the president thereof, three members of the house
5 of representatives to be designated by the speaker
6 thereof, and three persons to be appointed by the
7 governor, is hereby established for the purpose of
8 making a study and investigation of the advisability
9 and feasibility of the establishment of a layman's
10 court whose function shall be to counsel and aid per-
11 sons of moderate means in cases of alleged unjust
12 action or threat of action by a member of the bar;

13 revenue to administer said Layman's Court to come
14 from a schedule of moderate fees for services. Said
15 commission shall also consider the advisability of
16 amendment of the oath of office prescribed in section
17 thirty-eight of chapter two hundred and twenty-one
18 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.) for admission as an
19 attorney. The commission shall be provided with
20 quarters in the state house or elsewhere, and may ex-
21 pend, with the approval of the governor and council,
22 for clerical and other services and expenses such sums,
23 not exceeding, in the aggregate, twenty-five hundred
24 dollars, as may hereafter be appropriated therefor.
25 Said special commission shall report to the general
26 court the results of its investigation, and its recom-
27 mendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation
28 necessary to carry said recommendations into effect,
29 by filing the same with the clerk of the house of repre-
30 sentatives on or before the first Wednesday of Decem-
31 ber in the year nineteen hundred and fifty-one.