

HOUSE No. 666

By Mr. Winslow of Cambridge, petition of Henry D. Winslow for legislation to provide a short statute of limitations for the commencement of claims against the Commonwealth. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Three.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A SHORT STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS
FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE
COMMONWEALTH.

*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 four of chapter two hundred
2 and sixty of the General Laws, as most recently
3 amended by section nine of chapter three hundred
4 and eighty-five of the acts of nineteen hundred and
5 thirty-seven, is hereby further amended by inserting
6 after the word "ninety" in the twenty-sixth line the
7 words: —, and actions for claims against the com-
8 monwealth brought under chapter two hundred and
9 fifty-eight, — so as to read as follows: — *Section 4.*
10 Actions for assault and battery, false imprisonment,
11 slander, actions against sheriffs, deputy sheriffs,
12 constables or assignees in insolvency for the taking
13 or conversion of personal property, actions of tort

14 for injuries to the person against counties, cities and
15 towns, and actions of contract or tort for malpractice,
16 error or mistake against physicians, surgeons, dentists,
17 optometrists, hospitals and sanitarium, hairdressers,
18 operators and shops registered under sections eighty-
19 seven T to eighty-seven JJ, inclusive, of chapter one
20 hundred and twelve, shall be commenced only within
21 two years next after the cause of action accrues;
22 and actions for libel and actions of tort for bodily
23 injuries or for death the payment of judgments in
24 which is required to be secured by chapter ninety
25 and also {actions of tort for bodily injuries or for
26 death or for damage to property against officers and
27 employees of the commonwealth, of the metropolitan
28 district commission, and of any county, city or town,
29 arising out of the operation of motor or other vehicles
30 owned by the commonwealth, including those under
31 the control of said commission, or by any such county,
32 city or town, suits by judgment creditors in such
33 actions of tort under section one hundred and thirteen
34 of chapter one hundred and seventy-five and clause
35 (10) of section three of chapter two hundred and
36 fourteen and suits on motor vehicle liability bonds
37 under section thirty-four G of said chapter ninety,
38 and actions for claims against the commonwealth
39 brought under chapter two hundred and fifty-eight,
40 shall be commenced only within one year next after
41 the cause of action accrues.

1 SECTION 2. Section one of this act shall apply
2 only to causes of action accruing subsequent to the
3 effective date of this act.