
By Mr. Doherty of Medford, petition of Ernest C. Johnson for legislation to include actions for malpractice against attorneys-at-law within the statute of limitations. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT AMENDING THE LAW AS TO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

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 260 of the General Laws, section 4, as re-
2 cently amended by chapter 409, section 4, acts of 1943,
3 is hereby amended by inserting in line 5, after the word
4 physicians, the words:— attorneys at law,— so that
5 said section will read as follows:—

6 *Section 4.* Actions for assault and battery, false im-
7 prisonment, slander, actions against sheriffs, deputy
8 sheriffs, constables or assignees in insolvency for the
9 taking or conversion of personal property, actions of
10 tort for injuries to the person against counties, cities and
11 towns, and actions of contract or tort for malpractice,
12 error or mistake against physicians, attorneys at law,
13 surgeons, dentists, optometrists, hospitals and sanitarium,
14 hairdressers, operators and shops registered under sec-
15 tions eighty-seven T to eighty-seven JJ, inclusive, of
16 chapter one hundred and twelve, shall be commenced
17 only within two years next after the cause of action ac-
18 crues; and actions for libel and actions of tort for bodily
19 injuries or for death the payment of judgments in which
20 is required to be secured by chapter ninety and also ac-
21 tions of tort for bodily injuries or for death or for damage
22 to property against officers and employees of the com-

23 monwealth, of the metropolitan district commission, and
 24 of any county, city or town arising out of the operation
 25 of motor or other vehicles owned by the commonwealth,
 26 including those under the control of said commission,
 27 or by any such county, city or town, suits by judgment
 28 creditors in such actions of tort under section one hun-
 29 dred and thirteen of chapter one hundred and seventy-
 30 five and clause (10) of section three of chapter two hun-
 31 dred and fourteen and suits on motor vehicle liability
 32 bonds under section thirty-four G of said chapter ninety
 33 shall be commenced only within one year next after the
 34 cause of action accrues.

35 For the purposes only of this section, an officer or
 36 soldier of the military forces of the commonwealth, as
 37 defined in chapter thirty-three, shall while performing
 38 any lawfully ordered military duty be deemed to be an
 39 officer or employee of the commonwealth.