

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1227

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 6, 1927.

The joint committee on the Judiciary, to whom were referred the message from His Excellency the Governor (House, No. 272) transmitting the second annual report of the Judicial Council (Pub. Doc. No. 144), and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 309) of Abraham K. Cohen and James N. Clark relative to the fitness of applicants for admission to the bar, report (in part on the former) the accompanying bill (House, No. 1227).

For the committee,

ANGIER L. GOODWIN.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Seven.

An Act relative to Admission to the Bar.

*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 General  
2 Laws, as amended in section thirty-seven by section one  
3 of chapter two hundred and ninety of the acts of nine-  
4 teen hundred and twenty-one and by chapter eleven of  
5 the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-five, is hereby  
6 further amended by striking out said section thirty-seven  
7 and inserting in place thereof the following:—

8 *Section 37.* A citizen of the United States, whether  
9 man or woman, may, if over twenty-one, file a petition  
10 in the supreme judicial or superior court to be examined  
11 for admission as an attorney at law, and, if found quali-  
12 fied, to be admitted as such; whereupon, unless the court  
13 otherwise orders, the petition shall be referred to the  
14 board of bar examiners to ascertain his acquirements and  
15 qualifications, and in ascertaining his acquirements said  
16 board itself shall make inquiries as to his moral char-  
17 acter and his fitness. If the board reports that the  
18 petitioner is of good moral character and of sufficient  
19 acquirements and qualifications, and recommends his  
20 admission, he shall be admitted unless the court other-  
21 wise determines, and thereafter may practice in all the  
22 courts of the commonwealth; provided, that nothing in

23 this section shall authorize the requirement of any edu-  
24 cational qualifications in addition to those required by  
25 section thirty-six and that in no event shall the board  
26 report unfavorably as to the admission of the petitioner  
27 because not of good moral character or fit except after  
28 full hearing before it. The petitioner shall pay to the  
29 clerk of the court in which his petition is filed a fee of  
30 fifteen dollars upon the entry thereof, and a further fee  
31 of fifteen dollars upon the entry of any subsequent peti-  
32 tion. Such fees shall be paid over to the commonwealth.

