

By Mr. Harrington of Newton, petition of Peter F. Harrington relative to the criminal liability of parents for certain acts of their minor children. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CRIMINAL LIABILITY OF PARENTS FOR ACTS OF MINOR CHILDREN.

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. Chapter 231 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 85I the following section: —
3 *Section 85J.* Whoever, being the parent of an unemancipated
4 minor child, fails to exercise responsible parental control which
5 results in his minor child committing a criminal act, or allows or
6 encourages his minor child to become adjudged delinquent as pro-
7 vided in chapter one hundred and nineteen, shall be punished by
8 a fine of not more than one hundred dollars or by imprisonment
9 for not more than one year.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 55 the following section: —
3 *Section 55A.* If an unemancipated minor child is adjudged
4 delinquent under section fifty-eight, the judge, prior to pronounc-
5 ing sentence, shall determine if there is probable cause to believe
6 there is a violation of section eighty-five J of chapter two hun-
7 dred and thirty-one, and if the judge so finds, he shall report
8 forthwith his findings to the district attorney having jurisdiction.

