

By Mr. Lawton of Brockton, petition of Mark E. Lawton relative to requiring the courts to enter all necessary orders concerning the care, custody and support of children before a libel for divorce may be filed. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT REQUIRING THE COURT TO ENTER ALL NECESSARY ORDERS CONCERNING THE CARE, CUSTODY AND SUPPORT OF CHILDREN BEFORE A LIBEL FOR DIVORCE MAY BE FILED.

*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 208 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
2 out section 6B, as most recently amended by section 12 of chapter  
3 400 of the acts of 1975, and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following section: —

5 *Section 6B.* No action for divorce shall be accepted for filing  
6 by any clerk of the superior court or by any register of the probate  
7 court unless, at the time of the filing of such action, the court,  
8 after hearing ex parte, has entered all necessary orders of a  
9 temporary nature concerning the care, custody and support of  
10 any minor children and provided, in addition thereto, that the  
11 parties shall have been living apart for thirty days or said thirty  
12 day period has been waived by the court after hearing, ex parte.

