

HOUSE No. 3597

By Ms. Gibson of Belmont, petition of Freddie Hayward and Mary Jane Gibson for legislation to eliminate sexist discrimination in the law relative to the sale of real estate by non-resident married women. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two.

AN ACT ELIMINATING SEXIST DESIGNATIONS IN THE LAW RELATIVE TO THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY NON-RESIDENT MARRIED WOMEN.

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 nine, Section thirty-one ("Sale of Real
2 Estate by Non-Resident Married Woman") is hereby repealed and
3 replaced with the following provision, entitled "Sale of Real Estate
4 by Non-Resident Spouse."

5 A married person residing outside this commonwealth, and
6 owning in his/her own right real estate situated herein, whose
7 spouse abandoning and not sufficiently maintaining him/her has
8 left the place where they last dwelt together, may petition the
9 probate court in any county where the land lies, describing such
10 real estate and praying for authority to sell and convey it in the
11 same manner and with the same effect as if he/she were sole. The
12 court, after such notice as it may order, if it finds that the petitioner
13 has been abandoned by his/her spouse and that the spouse does
14 not sufficiently maintain him/her, may authorize the petitioner to
15 sell and convey within one year from the date of such decree such
16 real estate as if he/she were sole.

