

By Mr. Berry, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 709) of Frederick E. Berry, Kevin M. Burke and Sally P. Kerans for legislation to further designate the responsibility of providing secure and separate waiting rooms or areas for crime victims and witnesses during court proceedings. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO FURTHER DESIGNATE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING SECURE AND SEPARATE WAITING ROOMS OR AREAS FOR CRIME VICTIMS AND WITNESSES DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS.

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 258B, section 3(g) is hereby amended
2 by striking the entire provision and inserting in place thereof: —
3 “for victims, family members and witnesses to be provided a
4 secure waiting area or room during court proceedings by the chief
5 administrative justice in cooperation with the district attorney, as
6 provided in Chapter 211B, section 17, and Chapter 258B,
7 section 7.”

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 211B, section 17, is hereby amended by
2 adding at the end of the second paragraph: —
3 “The chief administrative justice shall mandate for allocation
4 of space in all courts for the district attorney’s office, for clerical
5 and victim/witness staff of the district attorney’s office, and shall
6 provide a separate and secure waiting area or room for victims,
7 family members and witnesses during court proceedings, as
8 provided by Chapter 258B, section 3(g), and Chapter 258B,
9 section 7. All new construction and renovations of court facilities
10 shall include such provisions for district attorney’s clerical staff
11 and victim/witness staff of the district attorney’s office, and for
12 victims, family members and witnesses.”

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