

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 5700

By Mr. Wetherbee of Pepperell, petition of Bruce E. Wetherbee relative to improving small claims and other procedures in the district courts for the benefit of persons with such small claims. The Judiciary.

## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT IMPROVING SMALL CLAIMS AND OTHER PROCEDURES FOR THE BENEFIT OF PERSONS WITH SMALL CLAIMS.

*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. Section 15 of chapter 218 of the General Laws, as  
2 most recently amended by section 2 of chapter 810 of the acts of  
3 1963, is hereby further amended by adding at the end thereof the  
4 following paragraph:—

5 Small claims procedure in the district courts and in the municipi-  
6 pal court of the city of Boston shall provide for at least one session  
7 every two weeks which shall be either an evening session beginning  
8 no earlier than seven thirty o'clock in the evening or a Saturday  
9 morning session.

1 SECTION 2. Section 21 of said chapter 218, as most recently  
2 amended by chapter 377 of the acts of 1975, is hereby amended by  
3 inserting after the first sentence the following sentence:— The  
4 procedure may include rules for the submission of causes, by  
5 consent of the parties, to binding arbitration and for confirming or  
6 vacating awards thereunder substantially in the manner provided  
7 in sections eleven and twelve of chapter two hundred fifty-one.

