# HOUSE . . . . No. 530

Bill accompanying the petition of William M. Blatt that witnesses be excluded from court rooms when not testifying. Joint Judiciary. January 13.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifteen.

# AN ACT

To improve Court Procedure by excluding Witnesses who are not testifying.

*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. When a case is actually reached for trial
2 or hearing on issues of fact before any judge, justice,
3 master or auditor, with or without a jury, the clerk or
4 the presiding judge, justice, master or auditor shall
5 order all witnesses to retire from the court room, and if
6 there is a convenient anteroom they shall be kept there
7 during the sessions of the court while the testimony in
8 the case is being given ; no one shall be admitted to said
9 anteroom except said witnesses and the court officers
10 except by permission of the court ; each witness shall be
11 called into the courtroom as he is required to testify and

12 after he leaves the witness stand he shall immediately
13 leave the court room and shall not re-enter the court
14 room during the trial of the case except by permission
15 of the court for cause. The court may, however, in its
16 discretion for cause allow any witness or witnesses to
17 remain during a part or the whole of any trial or may
18 re-admit for cause any witness who has been excluded.

1 Section 2. A witness who shall fail to retire when
2 requested either individually or in general terms by the
3 court or clerk or who shall return to the court room in
4 violation of such request, shall be punished as for con-
5 tempt of court.

1 Section 3. The courts may respectively, from time
2 to time, make and promulgate rules not inconsistent with
3 law for carrying out and enforcing this act.

1 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.