

# HOUSE . . . . No. 442

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Accompanying the petition of Peter Charleton for the creation of a commission to protect the people's rights in courts. Joint Judiciary. January 14.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-One.

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### AN ACT

To provide for the Appointment of a Commission for the Protection of the Rights of Citizens in the Courts.

*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. There shall be appointed by the governor,  
2 with the advice and consent of the council, a commission  
3 of five men, three of whom at least shall be lawyers or  
4 members of the bar. This commission shall be known as  
5 the commission for the protection of citizens' rights in  
6 courts.

1 SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of these commissioners  
2 to give such advice and instructions free to any law-  
3 abiding citizen applying for the same, as will enable him  
4 to plead his cause in the courts of this commonwealth in  
5 defending his rights, and will enable him to bring a suit

6 against any public official who uses his position to perse-  
7 cute such citizen or deprive him of his constitutional  
8 rights, or who by neglect of his duty deprives him of his  
9 constitutional rights.

1 SECTION 3. Three of the members of this commission  
2 shall be appointed for a term of five years each, and two  
3 for a term of three years each.

1 SECTION 4. In case of the death or resignation of any  
2 member before the expiration of his term of office, the  
3 governor shall appoint his successor within a reasonable  
4 time to perform his duties for the remainder of his term  
5 of office.

1 SECTION 5. The salaries of the members of this com-  
2 mission shall be four thousand dollars each, and their  
3 appointment shall be made within three months after the  
4 passage of this act.

1 SECTION 6. All laws and all parts of laws in conflict  
2 with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.



