

By Mr. DiFruscia of Lawrence, petition of Anthony R. DiFruscia for legislation relative to the assessment of counsel fees in claims for unemployment benefits. Commerce and Labor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ASSESSMENT OF COUNSEL FEES IN CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

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 151A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out section 37, inserted by chapter 506 of the acts
3 of 1959, and inserting in place thereof the following sec-
4 tion:—

5 *Section 37.* No fee shall be charged in any proceeding un-
6 der this chapter by the director or any of his agents or rep-
7 resentatives.

8 In any proceeding under this chapter a party may be repre-
9 sented by an agent or attorney. No fees for the services ren-
10 dered by such agent or attorney to an individual claiming
11 benefits shall be allowable or payable unless the amount
12 thereof shall have been previously approved by the director,
13 except in proceedings arising under sections forty and forty-
14 one, when such fees shall be so approved by the board of review
15 and assessed against the party against whom the board of
16 review has found. Whoever exacts or receives any remunera-
17 tion or gratuity for any services rendered on behalf of a bene-
18 fit claimant under this chapter, except as authorized by this
19 section, or who solicits the business of appearing on behalf of
20 a benefit claimant or employer, or who makes it a business to
21 solicit employment for another in connection with the making
22 of any claim for benefits or for the purpose of opposing a claim
23 or claims under this section, shall be punished by a fine of
24 not more than one hundred dollars or by imprisonment for
25 not more than six months, or both.

