
By Mr. Locke, a petition of David H. Locke, Gilbert W. Cox, Jr., and William D. Weeks that provision be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to costs and fees within the courts of the Commonwealth. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COURT, RELATIVE TO COSTS AND FEES WITHIN THE COURTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

1 *Resolved*, That a special commission, consisting of three
2 members of the senate, appointed by the presiding officer
3 thereof; five members of the house of representatives, ap-
4 pointed by the presiding officer thereof; three members ap-
5 pointed by the governor, at least one of whom shall be a prac-
6 ticing attorney within the commonwealth; the chief justice of
7 the supreme judicial court, or his designee; the chief justice
8 of the superior court, or his designee; the chief judge of the
9 probate courts, or his designee; the chief justice of the dis-
10 trict courts, or his designee; and the chief justice of the Bos-
11 ton municipal court, or his designee, is hereby established for
12 the purpose of making an investigation and study of the
13 system of court fees and costs within the courts of the com-
14 monwealth. Said commission shall consider during the course
15 of its investigation the matter of entry fees, jury fees, probate
16 filing fees, establishing proportionate scales of probate filing
17 fees based upon the amount to be probated, waiving of fees
18 where they would cause extreme hardship, and matters rela-
19 tive to making all said fees geared to the administrative costs
20 of the court system of the commonwealth. Said commission
21 may expend for expert, clerical and other assistance and ex-
22 penses such funds as may be appropriated therefor. Said com-
23 mission shall report to the general court the results of its

24 investigation and study, from time to time, and its recommen-
25 dations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary
26 to carry their recommendations into effect by filing the same
27 with the clerk of the senate and by filing a final report on or
28 before the first Wednesday in December of the year one
29 thousand nine hundred and seventy-one.