
By Mr. Ward, a petition of Joseph D. Ward and another for legislation to amend the system of jury selection in the Commonwealth. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT AMENDING THE SYSTEM OF JURY SELECTION IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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. Chapter 234 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 7 and substituting the follow-
3 ing:

4 Section 7. The clerk for the commonwealth of the supreme
5 judicial court, (hereinafter in this chapter called, "the clerk"),
6 is hereby empowered to oversee, direct and carry out the jury
7 selection process, as further described herein, for all of the
8 courts of the commonwealth. The clerk shall appoint such
9 subordinate employees as may be necessary from time to time
10 to assist him in carrying out the jury selection process. Copies
11 of all jury lists prepared pursuant to the provisions of sections
12 5 and 6 shall be delivered promptly to the clerk.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 234 of the General Laws is hereby fur-
2 ther amended by striking out sections 11 through 23, both in-
3 clusive, and substituting the following:

4 Section 11. *Service.* The venires shall be delivered to the
5 sheriff of the county to be transmitted by him to the clerk.

6 Section 12. *Additional venires.* Any court may issue venires
7 for additional jurors when necessary for the convenient dis-
8 patch of its business. They shall be delivered to the clerk, and
9 the jurors selected by him shall be required to attend on such
10 days as the court orders.

11 Section 13. *Drawing jurors.* The clerk shall devise a sys-

12 tem for the selection of jurors from the jury lists furnished
13 to him and in the numbers required by the several venires de-
14 livered to him. Such system, which shall be subject to ap-
15 proval by the supreme judicial court as fair and otherwise
16 satisfactory, may utilize mechanical, electric or electronic
17 devices or equipment for the random selection of jurors sub-
18 ject to such exclusions and exemptions as may be provided
19 from time to time by the provisions of this chapter.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall be effective as of September 1,⁰⁰
2 1971.