

SENATE No. 610

By Mr. Bulger, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 610) of William M. Bulger for legislation to limit the right to impeach a witness by proof of past convictions by leaving it to the discretion of the trial judge. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three.

AN ACT TO LIMIT THE RIGHT TO IMPEACH A WITNESS BY PROOF OF PAST CONVICTIONS BY LEAVING IT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE TRIAL JUDGE.

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. Section 21 of Chapter 233 is hereby amended by
2 changing the title to said section as follows: —

3 Conviction of Crime May Be Shown to Affect Credibility in
4 the Discretion of the Trial Judge.

1 SECTION 2. Section 21 of Chapter 233 is hereby further
2 amended by removing the first two lines of said section and
3 substituting the following: —

4 Within the discretion of the trial judge, the conviction of a
5 witness of a crime may be shown to affect his credibility, ex-
6 cept as follows:

1 SECTION 3. Section 21 of Chapter 233 is hereby further
2 amended by adding at the end a new paragraph as follows: —

3 The ruling of the trial judge with regard to his or her discre-
4 tion in allowing the showing of the conviction of a witness of a
5 crime to affect his credibility may be reviewed for abuse of
6 such discretion.

by the United States Government to the State of New York
under the following conditions: to wit: That the sum of \$10,000
be paid to the State of New York for the purchase of the land

Joint Resolutions of the Senate

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