

**SENATE . . . . . No. 789**

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By Mr. Keating, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 789) of William R. Keating and Thomas P. Walsh for legislation relative to attendance at juvenile court proceedings. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO ATTENDANCE AT JUVENILE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

*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 65 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws,  
2 as appearing in the 1984 Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
3 striking out the last two sentences in paragraph one and inserting  
4 in place thereof the following sentences: — The court shall  
5 exclude the general public from the room. Only persons who have  
6 a direct interest in the case shall be admitted, except the victim  
7 who is admitted has the right to invite to the session any person of  
8 his or her choice, so long as that person is not a minor. Such  
9 person accompanying the victim shall not be permitted to partici-  
10 pate in any formal proceedings of the court. In addition, a duly  
11 licensed attorney, who has filed a written appearance with the  
12 court on behalf of a victim, shall be admitted, whether or not the  
13 victim is admitted, but such attorney shall not be permitted to  
14 participate in any formal proceedings of the court. A complaint  
15 under section sixty-three may be heard in such juvenile session.

1 SECTION 2. Section 3 of Chapter 258B of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (l) the following  
3 subsections: —

4 (m) For victims, the right to invite to any juvenile court  
5 proceeding at which the victim is present any person of the  
6 victim's choice, so long as that person is not a minor, provided  
7 that such person shall not be permitted to participate in any formal  
8 proceedings of the court.

9 (n) For victims, the right to have a duly appointed attorney,  
10 who has filed a written appearance with a juvenile court on behalf  
11 of a victim, admitted, provided that such attorney shall not be  
12 permitted to participate in any formal proceedings of the court.