

By Mr. DiMasi of Boston, petition of Salvatore F. DiMasi and another for legislation to expedite the criminal trials of prisoners in custody. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO EXPEDITIOUS CRIMINAL TRIALS FOR PERSONS IN CUSTODY.

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 six of Chapter 220 of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by the addition of the following new para-
3 graphs: —

4 Any district court shall have at least one special session open
5 for business on weekday evenings and Saturdays so long as there
6 are pretrial prisoners who have been held in custody on the charge
7 pending in either that District or Jury Session or both for a com-
8 bined total of greater than ninety days. These sessions, and such
9 others that are required to reduce lock up and jail overcrowding,
10 shall conduct criminal business limited to: arraignments, motions
11 for bail reconsideration, trials for persons who are in custody in
12 lieu of bail, and chapter 209A petitions and hearings. Any such
13 district court may, for the purposes of arraignment only, arraign
14 and determine bail of any person within the county if another dis-
15 trict court with venue is not is session. The Chief Administrative
16 Justice of the Trial Courts and the Chief Administrative Justice of
17 the District Courts shall assign and schedule such judges and
18 court personnel as are necessary.

19 The Superior Court of a County shall have weekday evenings
20 and Saturday sessions so long as there are persons held in custody
21 awaiting trial in lieu of bail on indictments before the court for
22 longer than one hundred twenty days since arraignment in the

23 Superior Court. These sessions, and such others as may be
24 required to reduce both jail overcrowding and the custody
25 criminal trial list, shall conduct criminal business limited to:
26 arraignments, bail reviews, and trials of persons who are in cus-
27 tody in lieu of bail. The Chief Administrative Justice of the Trial
28 Courts and the Chief Administrative Justice of the Superior
29 Courts shall assign and schedule such judges and court personnel
30 as are necessary.