

By Mr. Hynes of Marshfield (by request), petition of Thomas M. Rettberg and others for legislation to further define the term "abuse" in domestic relations cases. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF ABUSE.

1 Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat
2 its purpose, which is to provide a definition of actual and serious
3 physical harm for issuance of 47,765 annual domestic restraining
4 orders, therefore it is declared to be an emergency law, necessary
5 for the immediate preservation of the public safety.

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 209A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking from Section 1, the following:
3 "(a) attempting to cause or causing physical harm"; and insert-
4 ing:
5 (a) attempting to cause or causing actual and serious physical
6 harm;.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 209A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking from Section 1, the following:
3 "(b) placing another in fear of imminent serious physical
4 harm";.

