

By Mr. Cohen of Newton, petition of David B. Cohen and another for legislation to protect universal human rights. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROTECT UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 93 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth is hereby
2 amended by adding after section 103(d) the following para-
3 graphs: —

4 (e) In addition to all other rights and remedies under the laws
5 of the commonwealth, every person shall have the full and equal
6 benefit to enjoyment of the human rights set forth in the
7 Provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
8 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on
9 December tenth, nineteen hundred and forty-eight by a vote of
10 forty-eight to zero.

11 (f) The executive offices and all agencies within them shall carry
12 out all other provisions of the laws of the commonwealth and shall
13 carry out the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human
14 Rights.

15 (g) In addition to any other remedy under the laws of the
16 commonwealth, a person whose rights under the provisions of
17 subsection (e) or (f) have been violated may commence a civil
18 action for injunctive and other appropriate equitable relief,
19 including the award of compensatory and exemplary damages.
20 Said civil action shall be instituted either in the superior court for
21 the county in which the conduct complained of occurred, or in
22 the superior court for the county in which the person whose
23 conduct complained of resides or has his principal place of
24 business.

25 (h) An aggrieved person who prevails in an action authorized
 26 by subsection (g) in addition to other damages, shall be entitled
 27 to an award of the costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's
 28 fees in an amount to be fixed by the court.