

HOUSE No. 3984

By Mr. Serra of Boston (by request), petition of Clare Devereaux and others for legislation to reimburse acquitted defendants in criminal cases for the cost of trials. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

AN ACT TO REIMBURSE ACQUITTED DEFENDANTS IN CRIMINAL CASES FOR TRIAL COSTS.

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. Whenever a defendant in a criminal case is acquit-
2 ted (found not guilty), the defendant shall be exempt from paying
3 all court costs.

1 SECTION 2. Said acquitted defendant shall be reimbursed
2 50% (fifty percent) of legal and lawyers' fees not to exceed
3 \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars).

1 SECTION 3. Whenever the commonwealth dismisses a crimi-
2 nal charge against a defendant, the defendant shall be exempt from
3 paying all court costs.

1 SECTION 4. The above Sections 1, 2 and 3 shall apply in
2 criminal court hearings and/or trials.

1 SECTION 5. The above shall not apply when the common-
2 wealth or any of its subdivisions is the defendant.

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall consist of seven members, to be elected by the stockholders at the annual meeting of the stockholders, and to hold office until the next annual meeting of the stockholders.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall have the right to elect and remove the officers and agents of the Corporation, and to determine the compensation of the officers and agents of the Corporation.

SECTION 3. The Board of Directors shall have the right to borrow money for the Corporation, and to mortgage the property of the Corporation to secure the same, and to execute any instrument necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

SECTION 4. The Board of Directors shall have the right to make, alter, amend, repeal, rescind, or suspend the bylaws of the Corporation, and to cause the same to be recorded.

SECTION 5. The Board of Directors shall have the right to make, alter, amend, repeal, rescind, or suspend the rules of the Corporation, and to cause the same to be recorded.

SECTION 6. The Board of Directors shall have the right to make, alter, amend, repeal, rescind, or suspend the regulations of the Corporation, and to cause the same to be recorded.

SECTION 7. The Board of Directors shall have the right to make, alter, amend, repeal, rescind, or suspend the resolutions of the Corporation, and to cause the same to be recorded.

SECTION 8. The Board of Directors shall have the right to make, alter, amend, repeal, rescind, or suspend the orders of the Corporation, and to cause the same to be recorded.

SECTION 9. The Board of Directors shall have the right to make, alter, amend, repeal, rescind, or suspend the decrees of the Corporation, and to cause the same to be recorded.