

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1406**

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By Ms. Gobi of Spencer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1406) of Anne M. Gobi and others relative to advertising by justices of the peace for the solemnization of marriages. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Anne M. Gobi**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to advertising by a justice of the peace.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Anne M. Gobi	5th Worcester
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1465 OF 2007-2008.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**  
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**AN ACT RELATIVE TO ADVERTISING BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.**

*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 207 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 58 and  
2 inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 58. A Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to solemnize marriages may advertise his or  
4 her name or any trade name, business address, telephone number, rate of compensation as provided by  
5 law, regular hours of availability and any ability in a second language and any present or former  
6 professional affiliation, in any public media, such as telephone directory, electronic or computer accessed  
7 justice of the peace directory, newspaper or other periodical, radio or television or through written,  
8 electronic, computer-accessed or similar types of communication, including websites. However, whoever  
9 advertises to perform or to procure the performance of a marriage ceremony by any other means shall be  
10 punished by a fine of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars. This section shall not be  
11 construed to prohibit the use of a business card by a Justice of the Peace or other person authorized to  
12 perform marriage ceremonies; and provided, further said card shall not display the seal of the  
13 Commonwealth.