

By Mr. DiMasi of Boston, petition of Salvatore F. DiMasi, Robert A. DeLeo and another relative to the revocation or release of impoundment of old probate records. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO OLD PROBATE RECORDS.

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

1 The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after
2 Section 8A of Chapter 217, the following new section: —

3 Section 8B. Chief Justice; Authority to Release Impoundment
4 of Certain Old Probate Records.

5 The chief justice of the probate and family court shall have the
6 authority to revoke or release the impoundment of any case,
7 whether the impoundment is authorized by statute, rule of court or
8 judicial order, where such case has been on file in said court for
9 one hundred years or more. Such order shall be entered for classes
10 of cases, for specified docket numbers, for those entered on cer-
11 tain dates, or for those entered between certain dates. A separate
12 order shall enter for each division of said court to whom it applies
13 and shall be docketed by the register.

14 The chief justice shall adopt procedures for the exercise of the
15 authority granted by this section which procedures shall include
16 ways for exceptions to be made upon request of a person or per-
17 sons who may be affected by such order.

