

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4459

By Mr. Cohen of Andover, petition of Gerald M. Cohen for legislation to require additional information to be included on a complaint for divorce. The Judiciary.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

AN ACT REQUIRING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON A COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE.

*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 8 of chapter 208 of the General Laws, as amended by  
2 section 14 of chapter 400 of the acts of 1975, is hereby further  
3 amended by adding the following paragraph:—

4 No complaint for divorce shall be accepted for filing in a registry  
5 of probate unless it discloses (a) whether either party is presently  
6 receiving payment of benefits from the department of public  
7 welfare, and, if so (b) whether or not either or both of the parties  
8 own any interest in real estate. If said complaint indicates either or  
9 both of the parties does own any interest in real estate and that  
10 either or both are receiving payment of benefits by the department  
11 of public welfare, the complaints shall be referred forthwith to a  
12 judge of the probate court who shall enter a temporary order, to be  
13 recorded as *lis pendens* in the appropriate registry of deeds, that no  
14 deed, mortgage, assignment or other transfer of said real estate  
15 shall be recorded until the department of public welfare shall have  
16 been reimbursed for all monies advanced by said department to  
17 support either party or the children of said parties.

