

HOUSE No. 2214

By Mr. Dever of Arlington, petition of Allan R. Zenowitz and Edward J. Dever, Jr., for legislation to authorize the declaration of legal holidays in the event of enemy attack interrupting the operation of the judicial system. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DECLARATION OF LEGAL HOLIDAYS IN THE EVENT ENEMY ATTACK SHALL INTERRUPT THE OPERATION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is to protect the rights of citizens in
3 the event enemy attack shall interrupt the operation of the
4 judicial system, now, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an
5 emergency law effective immediately in the interests of the pub-
6 lic safety.

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 639 of the acts of 1950, as amended, is hereby fur-
2 ther amended by inserting therein the following new section:—
3 *Section 20H.* In the event that at any time enemy attack or
4 the effects thereof, or the threat of enemy attack or the antici-
5 pated effects of enemy attack, shall interrupt the conduct of
6 the affairs of the judicial branch of the government of the com-
7 monwealth, including, without limiting the generality of the
8 foregoing, the holding of any sitting or session of any court or
9 the conduct of business in the office of any clerk of court or
10 any register of deeds or probate, the governor is authorized to
11 declare any such day on which such interruption has occurred
12 or may reasonably be anticipated will occur, as a legal holi-

13 day throughout the commonwealth or in any part thereof in
14 which such interruption may have occurred or may reasonably
15 be anticipated will occur; provided, however, that no such
16 declaration shall be construed to require the closing of any
17 public office which otherwise would be open for the transaction
18 of business nor to prohibit the transaction of business by the
19 legislative or executive departments of the government of the
20 commonwealth or its political subdivisions and provided fur-
21 ther that no such declaration shall be construed to prohibit the
22 transaction of any other lawful business on such day.