

HOUSE No. 643

Bill accompanying the petition of Albert J. Connell for legislation to prohibit the introduction of previous criminal records against a defendant in a criminal action. Joint Judiciary. January 16.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven.

AN ACT

Prohibiting the Introduction of Previous Criminal Records of Defendants at the Trial of a Criminal Complaint or Indictment.

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. A defendant in a criminal action shall
2 not be examined at the trial of said action as to any
3 previous criminal record or records which may be in
4 existence against him, nor shall any such record or
5 records be introduced for any purpose at the said trial
6 before a trial justice's court, a justice of the various
7 municipal or district courts or the superior courts of this
8 commonwealth.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall not affect the production
2 of a record or records against a defendant after conviction
3 on the question of sentence.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

