

HOUSE No. 803

By Mr. Coltun of Chelsea, petition of Harry Coltun for changing the punishment by death to imprisonment for life when there is a disagreement between the justices of the Supreme Judicial Court hearing the appeal. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-One.

AN ACT CHANGING THE PUNISHMENT BY DEATH TO IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE IF THERE IS DISAGREEMENT BY THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT HEARING THE APPEAL.

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 2 of chapter 265 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, is hereby
3 amended by inserting after the word "death" in line 2
4 the words: — except, if upon appeal by such person
5 duly made in accordance with law, the judgment of
6 the court from which the appeal was made is affirmed
7 by a decision of the supreme judicial court in which
8 one or more of the justices hearing such appeal fail to
9 concur, then such person shall be punished by im-
10 prisonment in the state prison for life.

