

SENATE No. 981

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James E. Timilty

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to ensure courthouse security.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>

SENATE No. 981

By Mr. Timilty, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 981) of James E. Timilty and John C. Velis for legislation to ensure courthouse security. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act to ensure courthouse security.

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. Section 70A of chapter 221 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following sentence:-

3 “Pursuant to said police powers, court officers may carry within the premises of the court
4 or in the immediate vicinity thereof such weapons as the chief justice of the trial court, the chief
5 justice of the supreme judicial court or the chief justice of the appeals court shall determine
6 necessary. Provided, however, that, prior to being permitted to carry a firearm within a
7 courthouse, a court officer shall have a license to carry pursuant to section 131 of chapter 140 or
8 section 131F of chapter 140.”

9 SECTION 2. Section 70A of chapter 221 of the General Laws is hereby further amended
10 by striking, in lines 3-4, the words “the areas of the court to which they have been assigned;” and
11 inserting in place thereof the following words:

12 “the premises of the court or in the immediate vicinity thereof”