

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Eugene L. O'Flaherty

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem to investigate the facts of any proceeding involving the care, custody or maintenance of minor children and domestic relations matters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Eugene L. O'Flaherty	2nd Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1648 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN AD LITEM TO INVESTIGATE
THE FACTS OF ANY PROCEEDING INVOLVING THE CARE, CUSTODY OR MAINTENANCE
OF MINOR CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS MATTERS.

*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. Chapter 215 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by striking section 56A and inserting in place thereof the following section:—
3 Section 56A. Any judge of the probate and family court may appoint a guardian ad litem to
4 investigate the facts of any proceeding pending in said court relating to or involving questions
5 as to the care, custody or maintenance of minor children and as to any matter involving
6 domestic relations except those for the investigation of which provision is made by section
7 sixteen of chapter two hundred and eight. Said guardian ad litem shall, before final judgment or
8 decree in such proceeding, report in writing to the court the results of the investigation, and
9 such report shall be open to inspection to all the parties in such proceeding or their attorneys.
10 The compensation, together with any expense, shall be fixed by the court and shall be paid by
11 the commonwealth or by one or both of the parties, as the court may order, upon certificate by
12 the judge to the state treasurer. The state police, local police and probation officers shall assist
13 the guardian ad litem so appointed, upon his request.

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