

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 to Encourage Lawyers to practice public Interest law.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE LAWYERS TO PRACTICE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW.

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 6 of chapter 62 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by inserting after subsection (k) the following subsection:-

3 (l) A graduate of an accredited Massachusetts law school who is practicing public interest law shall
4 be allowed a credit equal to the amount of money that the graduate is paying for law school loans;
5 provided, however that the graduate is actually practicing public interest law, as determined by the
6 public service commission, and provided further that the amount of the credit shall never exceed the
7 gross amount of law school tuition.

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9 SECTION 2. There is hereby established a public service commission. The purpose of the commission
10 shall be to evaluate and categorize public legal services and to determine which legal service are
11 provided directly to clients for the purposes of the tax credits enumerated in section 1. Types of such
12 services shall include but not be limited to, legal services corporations, public defenders offices, district
13 attorneys offices, attorney generals offices and employment with other 501(c)(3) non-profit

14 organizations. The commission shall be responsible for making determinations as to the validity of the
15 public legal services offered. The commission shall also conduct a study to encourage participation in
16 public law services and furnish a study which will recommend tuition reimbursement programs to
17 reduce law school loans. The commission shall be composed of the attorney general, who shall chair the
18 commission, one representative appointed by the governor, the chair of the committee for public
19 counsel or his designee, one representative appointed by the president of the senate and one
20 representative appointed by the speaker of the house and one representative appointed by the chief
21 administrative justice of the trial court. The commission shall file its report with the clerks of the house
22 and senate by March 31, 2008

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