

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia Stone Creem

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 improve juror service responses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cynthia Stone Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex and Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO IMPROVE JUROR SERVICE RESPONSES.

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 4 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines
2 8-9, the following: “the juror confirmation form” and inserting in place thereof
3 the following: - “a juror summons response”

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5 SECTION 2. Section 21 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line
6 5, the following: “, and an alternate month, day, and year,”

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8 SECTION 3. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines
9 1-2, the following: “return the juror confirmation form, duly completed and

10 signed,” and inserting in place thereof the following: - “respond to the juror
11 summons”

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13 SECTION 4. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line
14 4, the following: “envelope for this purpose.” and inserting in place thereof the
15 following: - “means by which jurors can respond.”

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18 SECTION 5. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line
19 7, the following: “return the completed confirmation form” and inserting in place
20 thereof the following: - “respond to the juror summons”

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22 SECTION 6. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line
23 8, the following: “confirmation form” and inserting in place thereof the following:
24 - “juror summons”

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26 SECTION 7. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines
27 8-12, the following: “Where a juror is unable to return a juror confirmation form
28 because of its loss or destruction or where there is insufficient time for the juror
29 to confirm by mail, the office of jury commissioner may accept an oral
30 confirmation from the juror by telephone or in person.” and inserting in place
31 thereof the following: - “Grand and trial jurors may confirm their service by any
32 other means approved by the jury commissioner including, but not limited to,
33 telephonic and electronic means.”

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35 SECTION 8. Section 24 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in line
36 12, the following word: “oral”

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38 SECTION 9. Section 25 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in lines
39 2-3, the following: “duly completed and signed juror confirmation form” and
40 inserting in place thereof the following: - “response to the juror summons”

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42 SECTION 10. Section 25 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
43 line 9, the following: “and questionnaire”

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45 SECTION 11. Section 25 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
46 lines 10-11, the following: “return a duly completed and signed juror confirmation
47 form within five days of its receipt.” and inserting in place thereof the following: -
48 “respond to the second summons within five days of its receipt by the any of the
49 means set forth in the provisions of section twenty-four of this chapter.”

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51 SECTION 12. Section 26 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
52 lines 3-4, the following: “returned juror confirmation forms” and inserting in place
53 thereof the following: - “responses to the juror summonses”

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55 SECTION 13. Section 26 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
56 lines 6-7, the following: “return a duly completed and signed juror confirmation
57 form” and inserting in place thereof the following: - “respond to the juror
58 summons”

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60 SECTION 14. Section 26 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
61 lines 9-10, the following: “duly completed and signed juror confirmation form”
62 and inserting in place thereof the following: - “response to the juror summons”

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64 SECTION 15. Section 26 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
65 lines 16-17, the following: “return a duly completed and signed juror confirmation
66 form within five days of its receipt.” and inserting in place thereof the following: -
67 “respond to the second summons within five days of its receipt by the any of the
68 means set forth in the provisions of section twenty-four of this chapter.”

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70 SECTION 16. Section 34 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
71 lines 3-4, the following: “duly completing and returning the juror confirmation
72 form in which his election to postpone shall be indicated.” and inserting in place
73 thereof the following: - “responding to the juror summons and indicating his or
74 her election to postpone.”

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76 SECTION 17. Section 34 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
77 lines 4-6, the following: “The month and date, and an alternate month and date,
78 to which the service is postponed shall be indicated in the confirmation form.”
79 and inserting in place thereof the following: - “The month, day, and year to which
80 the service is postponed shall be indicated in the response to the juror
81 summons.”

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83 SECTION 18. Section 34 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
84 lines 10-12, the following: “the alternate postponement date unless date^[1] is also
85 improper, unavailable, or inconvenient in which case the office of jury
86 commissioner shall assign”

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88 SECTION 19. Section 36 of chapter 234A is hereby amended by striking out, in
89 lines 1-2, the following: “the juror confirmation form” and inserting in place
90 thereof the following: - “a response to the juror summons”.

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