

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 5163

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches with reference to the Senate amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3089) of the House Bill to improve and modernize the information technology systems and capacities of the judiciary (House, No. 5076), reports, in part, recommending passage of the accompanying bill (House, No. 5163) [Bond Issue: General Obligation Bonds: \$165,500,000.00]. August 1, 2022.

Michael S. Day	William N. Brownsberger
Chynah Tyler	Cynthia Stone Creem
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**HOUSE . . . . . No. 5163**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act to improve and modernize the information technology systems and capacities of the judiciary.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to improve and modernize the information technology systems and capacities of the judiciary, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*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. To provide for a program to improve and modernize the information  
2 technology infrastructure of the supreme judicial court, appeals court, trial court and departments  
3 of the trial court of the commonwealth, the sums set forth in this act, for the several purposes and  
4 subject to the conditions specified in this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws  
5 regulating the disbursement of public funds; provided, however, that the amounts specified in an  
6 item or for a particular project may be adjusted in order to facilitate projects authorized in this  
7 act. The sums made available in this act shall be in addition to any amounts previously made  
8 available for these purposes.

9           SECTION 2.

10          JUDICIARY

11           0330-6000     For costs associated with establishing digital courthouses and courtrooms;  
12 provided, that projects funded in this item shall include an access to justice portal to enable  
13 electronic file storage and electronic access to case information by court users; provided further,  
14 that projects funded in this item shall include a remote video interpreting system; provided  
15 further, that projects funded in this item shall include a content management system to manage  
16 electronically filed documents, forms and evidence with a workflow engine to manage court  
17 operations and enable system wide real-time docketing and data access; provided further, that  
18 projects funded in this item shall include wireless internet access in courthouses for court staff  
19 and court users; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include digital signage in  
20 all courthouses; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include the costs  
21 associated with planning for the replacement of a case management system for the trial court of  
22 the commonwealth; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include replacement  
23 of the appellate court case management system; provided further, that projects funded in this  
24 item shall include a supreme judicial court digital reporting system that permits self-publishing  
25 for the supreme judicial court and appeals court; provided further, that not less than \$1,000,000  
26 shall be expended for the parole board of the department of correction to record and securely  
27 store audio recordings of parole board hearings; provided further, that not less than \$500,000  
28 shall be expended for New England Partners in Faith and Omnipoint Technology to provide  
29 affordable and free internet service to the lowest income residents, with limited internet access,  
30 impacted by the Judicial system, to promote equitable access to virtual filing and appearance  
31 services of the court, court services, and public safety services in Liberty Heights, Memorial  
32 Square, South End, Old Hill, Upper Hill, Six Corners, Bay, Pine Point, McKnight neighborhoods  
33 and any other low-income neighborhood of Springfield; provided further, that projects funded in

34 this item shall include technology for direct electronic video conferencing with registrars’ and  
35 magistrates’ offices of the trial court during hours of operation for attorneys and members of the  
36 public; and provided further, that projects funded in this item shall be funded in consultation, as  
37 applicable, with the secretary of technology services and  
38 security.....\$95,000,000

39 SECTION 2A.

40 JUDICIARY

41 0330-6001 For costs associated with establishing a modern and secure judiciary;  
42 provided, that projects funded in this item shall include costs associated with establishing a  
43 digital security system to protect court systems, networks and data; provided further, that  
44 projects funded in this item shall include court system-wide replacement of physical security  
45 hardware, which shall include, but not be limited to, video surveillance systems, duress systems,  
46 security scanning systems and inter-personnel communications equipment; provided further, that  
47 funds in this item shall be expended for projects to support the safety of victims and witnesses  
48 while in court-system facilities; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include  
49 centralized law enforcement communication systems; and provided further, that projects funded  
50 in this item shall be funded in consultation, as applicable, with the secretary of technology  
51 services and security.....\$35,000,000

52 SECTION 2B.

53 JUDICIARY

54           0330-6002     For costs associated with the technological modernization of court  
55 administrative operations; provided, that projects funded in this item shall include court system-  
56 wide secure voice over internet protocol phone systems; provided further, that projects funded in  
57 this item shall include an energy management system; provided further, that projects funded in  
58 this item shall include a data storage system of sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the court  
59 system; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include costs associated with  
60 enterprise resource planning; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include  
61 costs associated with establishing a virtual private network to enable court employee remote  
62 access to court systems and data; provided further, that projects funded in this item shall include  
63 costs associated with increased bandwidth capacity in all court locations to accommodate a  
64 digital court system; provided further, that not less than \$500,000 shall be expended for the  
65 improvement and modernization of the information technology systems at the Framingham and  
66 Natick District Court; and provided further, that projects funded in this item shall be funded in  
67 consultation, as applicable, with the secretary of technology services and security....\$35,500,000

68           SECTION 3. Section 9B of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
69 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- Electronically imprinting  
70 the established seal of a court in a form authorized by the supreme judicial court, appeals court,  
71 the trial court or any department of the trial court of the commonwealth shall be taken and held  
72 to be the seal of such court.

73           SECTION 3A. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
74 following section:-

75           Section 170. The parole board shall record and securely store all audio for all parole  
76 board hearings. Audio from each parolee's hearing(s) shall be securely stored and may only be  
77 deleted when that individual is no longer on parole or is deceased.

78           SECTION 4. Section 131 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
79 amended by striking out, in lines 6 to 8, inclusive, the words “, subject to such restrictions  
80 relative to the possession, use or carrying of firearms as the licensing authority considers  
81 proper”.

82           SECTION 5. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
83 amended by striking out, in lines 10 to 17, inclusive, the words “; provided, however, that the  
84 licensing authority may impose such restrictions relative to the possession, use or carrying of  
85 large capacity rifles and shotguns as it considers proper. A violation of a restriction imposed by  
86 the licensing authority under this paragraph shall be cause for suspension or revocation and shall,  
87 unless otherwise provided, be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000;  
88 provided, however, that section 10 of chapter 269 shall not apply to a violation of this  
89 paragraph.”

90           SECTION 6. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
91 amended by inserting after the word “of”, in lines 55, 256 and 364, in each instance, the  
92 following words: - the department of.

93           SECTION 7. Subsection (d) of said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is  
94 hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following  
95 paragraph: -

96           A person residing or having a place of business within the jurisdiction of the licensing  
97 authority or any law enforcement officer employed by the licensing authority or any person  
98 residing in an area of exclusive federal jurisdiction located within a city or town may submit to  
99 the licensing authority or the colonel of state police an application for a license to carry firearms,  
100 or renewal of the same, which the licensing authority or the colonel shall issue if it appears that  
101 the applicant is neither a prohibited person nor determined to be unsuitable to be issued a license  
102 as set forth in this section, provided that upon an initial application for a license to carry  
103 firearms, the licensing authority shall conduct a personal interview with the applicant.

104           SECTION 8. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
105 amended by striking out, in line 137, the words “or (C)” and inserting in place thereof the  
106 following words: - (C) a permanent or temporary harassment prevention order issued pursuant to  
107 chapter 258E or a similar order issued by another jurisdiction; or (D).

108           SECTION 9. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
109 amended by striking out, in line 147, the word “may” and inserting in place thereof the following  
110 word:- shall.

111           SECTION 10. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
112 amended by striking out, in lines 149 and 150 the words “, in a reasonable exercise of discretion,  
113 the licensing authority determines that”.

114           SECTION 11. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
115 amended by striking out, in lines 152 to 157, inclusive, the words “: (i) reliable and credible  
116 information that the applicant or licensee has exhibited or engaged in behavior that suggests that,  
117 if issued a license, the applicant or licensee may create a risk to public safety; or (ii) existing

118 factors that suggest that, if issued a license, the applicant or licensee may create a risk to public  
119 safety” and inserting in place thereof the following words: - reliable, articulable and credible  
120 information that the applicant or licensee has exhibited or engaged in behavior that suggests that,  
121 if issued a license, the applicant or licensee may create a risk to public safety or a risk of danger  
122 to self or others.

123 SECTION 12. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
124 amended by striking out, in line 225, the word “may” and inserting in place thereof the following  
125 word:- shall.

126 SECTION 13. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
127 amended by striking out, in lines 239 and 240 the words “, suspension or restriction placed on”  
128 and inserting in place thereof the following words:- or suspension of.

129 SECTION 14. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
130 amended by striking out, in lines 244 to 246, inclusive, the words “or, in the case of a restriction,  
131 any time after a restriction is placed on the license pursuant to this section”.

132 SECTION 15. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
133 amended by striking out, in line 250, the words “, revoking or restricting” and inserting in place  
134 thereof the following words:- or revoking.

135 SECTION 16. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
136 amended by striking out, in lines 253 and 254 the words “or may order the licensing authority to  
137 remove certain restrictions placed on the license”.



138 SECTION 17. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
139 amended by striking out, in lines 266 and 267, 348, 360 and 361, 409 and 410, and 424, each  
140 time they appear, the words “executive director of the criminal history systems board” and  
141 inserting in place thereof the following words:- commissioner of the department of criminal  
142 justice information services.

143 SECTION 17A. Said section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
144 amended by striking out, in line 325, the words “Class A or Class B”.

145 SECTION 17B. Section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
146 inserting after the word “firearms”, in line 1, the following words:- , rifles or shotguns.

147 SECTION 18. Said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
148 amended by striking out, in line 2, the word “may” and inserting in place thereof the following  
149 word:- shall.

150 SECTION 19. Said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
151 amended by striking out, in lines 6 to 8, inclusive, the words “and subject to such terms and  
152 conditions as said colonel may deem proper; provided, however, that no license shall be issued to  
153 a person who” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- if it appears that the applicant  
154 is not a prohibited person and is not determined unsuitable to be issued a license as set forth in  
155 section 131.

156 SECTION 20. The first paragraph of said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so  
157 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out clauses (i) to (x), inclusive.

158 SECTION 21. Said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
159 amended by striking out, in line 55, the words “, if in his discretion,” and inserting in place  
160 thereof the following word:- if.

161 SECTION 22. Said section 131F of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further  
162 amended by striking out, in lines 57 to 58, inclusive, the words “The colonel may issue such  
163 license, subject to such terms and conditions as he deems proper,” and inserting in place thereof  
164 the following words:- The colonel shall issue such license in accordance with the provisions of  
165 section 131.

166 SECTION 23. Section 7 of chapter 185 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
167 amended by inserting after the word “court”, in line 7, the following words:- , or may be  
168 electronically maintained by the recorder’s office.

169 SECTION 24. Said chapter 185 is hereby further amended by striking out section 9, as so  
170 appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

171 Section 9. An authorized facsimile or electronic rendering of the recorder’s signature on  
172 any court records, orders, decisions, documents or legal papers, or copies thereof, or upon any  
173 writ, summons, order of notice, order of attachment or execution shall have the same validity as  
174 a written signature of the recorder.

175 SECTION 25. Section 6 of chapter 185C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
176 amended by inserting after the word “affixed”, in lines 2 and 3, the following words:- or  
177 electronically imprinted.

178 SECTION 26. Section 14 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
179 inserting after the word “papers”, in line 5, the following words:- , whether in physical or  
180 electronic form,.

181 SECTION 27. Said section 14 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
182 amended by inserting after the word “thereof”, in line 17, the following words:- , whether in  
183 physical or electronic form,.

184 SECTION 28. Said section 14 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
185 amended by inserting after the word “facsimile”, in line 20, the following words:- or electronic  
186 rendering.

187 SECTION 29. Said section 14 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
188 amended by striking out, in line 21, the word “facsimile”.

189 SECTION 30. Section 22 of said chapter 185C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
190 inserting after the word “docket”, in line 4, the following words:- , including the electronic  
191 docket.

192 SECTION 30A. (a). Section 1 of chapter 188 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
193 striking the definition of “Declared homestead exemption” and inserting in place thereof the  
194 following: "Declared homestead exemption", an exemption in the amount of \$500,000 created by  
195 a written declaration, executed and recorded pursuant to section 5; provided, however, that: (1)  
196 with respect to a home owned by joint tenants or tenants by the entirety who are benefited by an  
197 estate of homestead declared pursuant to section 3, the declared homestead exemption shall  
198 remain whole and unallocated, provided that the owners together shall not be entitled to a  
199 declared homestead exemption in excess of \$500,000; (2) if a home is owned by tenants in

200 common or trust beneficiaries, the declared homestead exemption for each co-tenant and trust  
201 beneficiary who benefits by an estate of homestead declared pursuant to said section 3 shall be  
202 the product of: (i) \$500,000 divided by (ii) the number of co-tenants or trust beneficiaries who  
203 reside in the home as a principal residence; (3) except as provided in clause (4), each person who  
204 owns a home and who is benefited by an estate of homestead declared pursuant to section 2 shall  
205 be entitled to the declared homestead exemption without reduction, proration or allocation  
206 among other owners of the home; and (4) separate estates of homestead may be declared  
207 pursuant to sections 2 and 3 on the same home, and in such event: (i) if the home is owned by  
208 tenants in common or trust beneficiaries, the declared homestead exemption for each co-tenant  
209 and trust beneficiary who benefits by an estate of homestead declared pursuant to section 3 shall  
210 be calculated in the manner provided in clause (2), and the declared homestead exemption for  
211 each co-tenant and trust beneficiary who benefits by an estate of homestead declared pursuant to  
212 section 2 shall be calculated in the manner provided in clause (3); or (ii) if the home is owned by  
213 joint tenants or tenants by the entirety, the declared homestead exemption for the owners  
214 together shall be the sum of \$500,000 multiplied by the number of declarations recorded  
215 pursuant to section 2, plus \$250,000; provided, however, that the homestead exemption under  
216 this subclause shall remain whole and unallocated among the owners; and provided further, that  
217 no owner who declares a homestead, acting individually, shall be entitled to claim an exemption  
218 of more than \$500,000; and (5) the calculation of the amount of homestead exemption available  
219 to an owner shall not sever a joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety.

220 (b). Said section 1 of chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking the definition of  
221 "Owner" and inserting in place thereof the following: "Owner", a natural person who is a sole  
222 owner, joint tenant, tenant by the entirety, tenant in common, life estate holder, remainderman or

223 holder of a present, vested and non-contingent beneficial interest in a trust, including any of the  
224 foregoing who is a lessee-shareholder of a residential cooperative housing unit.

225 (c). Subsection (b) of section 3 of said chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking clause  
226 (6) and inserting in place thereof the following: (6) upon an execution issued from a court of  
227 competent jurisdiction to enforce its judgment based upon fraud, duress, undue influence or lack  
228 of capacity.

229 (d). Section 10 of said chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking subsections (a) and (b)  
230 and inserting in place thereof the following two subsections: (a) An estate of homestead created  
231 under section 3 or 4 may be terminated by any of the following methods: (1) a deed to a non-  
232 family member conveying the home, signed by the owner and, if any, a non-owner spouse or  
233 former spouse who resides in the home as a principal residence as of the date of the deed,  
234 provided however, that a deed to a trustee of a trust for the benefit of a grantor shall not  
235 terminate that grantor's existing homestead, which shall continue as to the interest of that grantor  
236 as trust beneficiary; (2) a recorded release of the estate of homestead, duly signed and  
237 acknowledged by the owner and, if any, a non-owner spouse or former spouse who resides in the  
238 home as a principal residence as of the date of the release, which release may be executed by  
239 those persons either separately or jointly; (3) the abandonment of the home as the principal  
240 residence by the owner, the owner's spouse, former spouse or minor children, except that such  
241 abandonment shall terminate only the rights of the persons who have abandoned the home;  
242 provided, however, that no person in military service as defined in 50 U.S.C. appendix, section  
243 511 shall be deemed to have abandoned the home due to such military service; (4) in the case of  
244 a home the title to which is held in trust, by either: (i) the execution of a deed or a release of  
245 homestead by the trustee; or (ii) action of a beneficial owner identified in the declaration, who is

246 not a minor child, taken in the same manner as provided in clauses (2) and (3); (5) the  
247 subsequent recorded declaration of an estate of homestead under section 3 on other property,  
248 except that such declaration shall terminate only the rights of the owner making such subsequent  
249 declaration and the rights of that owner's spouse and minor children who reside or intend to  
250 reside in the other property as their principal residence; (6) a deed setting forth (i) that the  
251 grantor is unmarried or (ii) that the property is either not a home or not the grantor's home; (7) a  
252 deed that includes a statement certified under the penalties of perjury that (i) there is no spouse  
253 or former spouse entitled to an estate of homestead or (ii) the property is not the home of the  
254 grantor's spouse or former spouse. (8) a recorded affidavit pursuant to section 5B of chapter 183  
255 setting forth that, at the time of delivery of a deed, mortgage or other instrument of conveyance  
256 to a non-family member, (i) the grantor was unmarried, or (ii) the grantor had no spouse or  
257 former spouse entitled to claim the benefit of an existing estate of homestead, or (iii) the property  
258 was not a home, or (iv) the property was not the home of the grantor or the grantor's spouse or  
259 former spouse. The affidavit may be recorded simultaneously or subsequent to the deed,  
260 mortgage or other instrument of conveyance; (9) a divorce judgment or decree of a court of  
261 competent jurisdiction shall release the homestead of a spouse who (a) is required therein to  
262 convey title to the home to the other spouse, or (b) was not an owner of the home and was not  
263 awarded therein either title or possessory rights in the home; (b) No deed between spouses or  
264 former spouses or co-owners who individually or jointly hold an estate of homestead under  
265 section 3 or section 4 and no deed between a trustee and a trust beneficiary or between a life  
266 tenant and a remainderman shall terminate the homestead unless each co-owner, spouse, former  
267 spouse, trust beneficiary or remainderman entitled to the benefit of the homestead has executed  
268 an express release thereof pursuant to clause (2) or clause (4) of subsection (a).

269 (e). Section 11 of said chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking subsection (a) and  
270 inserting in place thereof the following: (a) If a home that is subject to an estate of homestead is  
271 sold, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, taken or damaged by fire or other casualty, then the  
272 proceeds of any such sale, taking or damage shall be entitled to the protection of this chapter  
273 during the following periods: (1) in the event of a sale, whether voluntary or involuntary, or a  
274 taking, for a period ending on the date on which the person benefited by the homestead either  
275 acquires another home the person intends to occupy as a principal residence or 1 year after the  
276 date on which the sale or taking occurred, whichever first occurs; and (2) in the event of a fire or  
277 other casualty, for a period ending on: (i) the date upon which the reconstruction or repair to the  
278 home is completed or the date on which the person benefited by the homestead acquires another  
279 home the person intends to occupy as a principal residence; or (ii) 2 years after the date of the  
280 fire or other casualty, whichever first occurs.

281 (f). Said chapter 188 is hereby amended by striking section 13 and inserting in place  
282 thereof the following section: Section 13. A recorded deed, release, mortgage, affidavit or other  
283 instrument of conveyance containing a statement of any facts set forth in clauses (6), (7) or (8) of  
284 subsection (a) of section 10 may be relied upon by a good faith purchaser for value and shall be  
285 conclusive proof of the parties, if any, then entitled to claim an estate of homestead. An affidavit  
286 pursuant to clause (7) of subsection (a) of section 10 shall be accepted in the appropriate registry  
287 of deeds or registration district of the land court. The subsequent residency or renewal of  
288 residency in the home by a grantor or spouse of the grantor, releaser or mortgagor shall not  
289 defeat the priority of a mortgage, release or conveyance accepted in reliance on such recorded  
290 deed, release, mortgage, affidavit or other instrument of conveyance.

291 (g) The provisions of this Act shall apply to estates of homestead arising or created  
292 before, on or after the effective date, except with respect to the subject matter of any final  
293 judgment to the contrary by a court of competent jurisdiction in an action commenced prior to  
294 said effective date.

295 SECTION 31. Section 3A of chapter 212 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
296 amended by inserting after the word “signed”, in line 4, the following words:- , by hand or by  
297 electronic means,.

298 SECTION 32. Section 26 of said chapter 212, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
299 striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The records  
300 of courts, including electronic records, which are transferred to the superior court shall remain in  
301 custody of the clerks, whether in physical or electronic form.

302 SECTION 33. Said section 26 of said chapter 212, as so appearing, is hereby further  
303 amended by inserting after the word “seal”, in line 8, the following words:- , which may be  
304 electronically imprinted,.

305 SECTION 34. Section 36 of chapter 215 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
306 amended by striking out, in line 6, the words “books kept therefor” and inserting in place thereof  
307 the following words:- books or electronically.

308 SECTION 35. Said section 36 of said chapter 215, as so appearing, is hereby further  
309 amended by inserting after the word “process”, in line 16, the following words:- or  
310 electronically.



311 SECTION 36. Section 53 of said chapter 215, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
312 inserting after the word “documents”, in line 4, the following words:- , whether in physical or  
313 electronic form,.

314 SECTION 37. Section 15 of chapter 217 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
315 amended by inserting after the word “papers”, in line 2, the following words:- , whether in  
316 physical or electronic form,.

317 SECTION 38. Section 26 of said chapter 217, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
318 inserting after the word “signing”, in line 1, the following words:- or electronic rendering.

319 SECTION 39. Section 2A of chapter 218 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
320 amended by inserting after the word “papers”, in line 6, the following words:- , whether in  
321 physical or electronic form,.

322 SECTION 40. Section 12 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
323 inserting after the word “papers”, in line 10, the following words:- , whether in physical or  
324 electronic form,.

325 SECTION 41. Section 13 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
326 inserting after the word “kept”, in line 3, the following words:- in the trial court electronic  
327 document management system or.

328 SECTION 42. Section 14 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
329 inserting after the word “facsimile”, in lines 7 and 12, in each instance, the following words:- or  
330 electronic rendering.

331 SECTION 43. Said section 14 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby further  
332 amended by striking out, in line 8, the word “facsimile”.

333 SECTION 44. Said section 14 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby further  
334 amended by striking out the words “Said facsimile”, in line 13, and inserting in place thereof the  
335 following word:- Such.

336 SECTION 45. Section 44 of said chapter 218, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
337 inserting after the word “signed”, in line 2, the following words:- by hand or electronically.

338 SECTION 46. Section 14 of chapter 221 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
339 amended by inserting after the word “papers”, in line 4, the following words:- , whether in  
340 physical or electronic form,.

341 SECTION 47. Section 17 of said chapter 221, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
342 striking out the word “A”, in line 1, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- An  
343 authorized electronic rendering or a.

344 SECTION 48. Section 20 of chapter 223 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
345 amended by inserting after the word “signed”, in line 2, the following words:- , by hand or by  
346 electronic means.

347 SECTION 48A. Section 20J of chapter 233 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
348 hereby amended by inserting after the word “worker”, in line 10, the following words:- , licensed  
349 mental health counselor.

350 SECTION 49. Section 6 of chapter 248 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
351 amended by inserting after the word “signed”, in line 2, the following words:- , by hand or  
352 electronically,.

353 SECTION 49A. Section 2A of chapter 276 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
354 hereby amended by inserting before the first sentence the following sentence:- The signature on  
355 the warrant may be made by electronic signature.

356 SECTION 49B. Section 2B of said chapter 276, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
357 inserting after the word “personally”, in lines 1 and 2 and 38, in each instance, the following  
358 words:- or through wire or electronic means.

359 SECTION 49C. Said section 2B of said chapter 276, as so appearing, is hereby further  
360 amended by inserting after the word “form”, in line 13, the following words:- and the signature  
361 therein be made by electronic signature.

362 SECTION 50. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for cases that  
363 are electronically filed in any state court in the commonwealth, any statutory requirement of a  
364 written signature on a document to be filed or any statutory requirement of a written signature in  
365 communications between the court and a party shall be satisfied if the document includes a  
366 signature in a form authorized by the supreme judicial court, the appeals court, the trial court of  
367 the commonwealth or any department of the trial court.

368 SECTION 51. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2, the state  
369 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an  
370 amount to be specified by the governor, but not exceeding in the aggregate \$95,000,000. All  
371 such bonds issued by the commonwealth shall be designated on their face, Judiciary Information

372 Technology and Innovation Act of 2022, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not  
373 exceeding 5 years, as the governor may recommend to the general court pursuant to section 3 of  
374 Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. The bonds shall be payable not later than  
375 June 30, 2032. All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be  
376 payable from the General Fund. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,  
377 bonds and interest thereon issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the  
378 commonwealth.

379 SECTION 52. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2A, the state  
380 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an  
381 amount to be specified by the governor, but not exceeding in the aggregate \$35,000,000. All  
382 such bonds issued by the commonwealth shall be designated on their face, Judiciary Information  
383 Technology and Innovation Act of 2022, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not  
384 exceeding 5 years, as the governor may recommend to the general court pursuant to section 3 of  
385 Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. The bonds shall be payable not later than  
386 June 30, 2032. All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be  
387 payable from the General Fund. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,  
388 bonds and interest thereon issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the  
389 commonwealth.

390 SECTION 53. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2B, the state  
391 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an  
392 amount to be specified by the governor, but not exceeding in the aggregate \$35,500,000. All  
393 such bonds issued by the commonwealth shall be designated on their face, Judiciary Information  
394 Technology and Innovation Act of 2022, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not

395 exceeding 5 years, as the governor may recommend to the general court pursuant to section 3 of  
396 Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. The bonds shall be payable not later than  
397 June 30, 2032. All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be  
398 payable from the General Fund. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,  
399 bonds and interest thereon issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the  
400 commonwealth.

401 SECTION 54. The unexpended balance in item 1102-5700, as authorized pursuant to  
402 chapter 113 of the acts of 2018, shall be expended for the costs of the reconstruction or  
403 replacement of court facilities located in the downtown area of the city of New Bedford.

404 SECTION 55. Sections 3, 3A and 23 to 50, inclusive, shall take effect 90 days after the  
405 effective date of this act.