

HOUSE No. 1927

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven Owens

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 exonerating certain individuals accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Sally P. Kerans</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>	<i>2/18/2025</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 1927

By Representative Owens of Watertown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1927) of Steven Owens, Sally P. Kerans and William C. Galvin relative to exonerating certain individuals accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act exonerating certain individuals accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts.

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 145 of the resolves of 1957, as amended by section 105 of chapter
2 126 of the acts of 2022, is hereby further amended by inserting after the words “Elizabeth
3 Johnson, Jr.” the first time they appear, the following words:- , “Margaret Jones, Alice Lake,
4 Elizabeth Kendall, Anne Hibbens, Goody Glover,”

5 SECTION 2. Said Chapter 145 is hereby further amended by striking the words “in the
6 year sixteen hundred and ninety-two” in the first paragraph.

7 SECTION 3. Said chapter 145 is hereby further amended by inserting after the words
8 “The above named”, the following words:- “and other”.

9 SECTION 4. Said Chapter 145 is hereby further amended by inserting after the first
10 paragraph the following paragraph :- “Whereas, Hugh Parsons, Eunice Cole, and Elizabeth
11 Morse were indicted, tried, and found guilty of “Witchcraft”; and”

12 SECTION 5. Said Chapter 145 is hereby further amended by inserting after the second
13 paragraph :- “Whereas, numerous others were named, accused, arrested, questioned, imprisoned,
14 arraigned, presented, indicted and/or tried for witchcraft or familiarity with the devil, though not
15 found guilty; and”

16 SECTION 6. Said Chapter 145 is hereby further amended by inserting after the words
17 “Elizabeth Johnson, Jr.” the second time they appear, the following words:- , “Margaret Jones,
18 Alice Lake, Elizabeth Kendall, Anne Hibbens, Goody Glover, Hugh Parsons, Eunice Cole,
19 Elizabeth Morse”.