

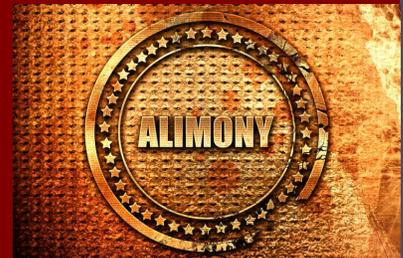


# **MASS ALIMONY REFORM**

**Alimony- "The payment of support from an Ex-Spouse with the Ability to Pay to an Ex-Spouse in Need, for a Reasonable Length of Time"**

**Mass Alimony Reform  
213 Main Street, suite 201  
Hudson, Ma 01249**

**June 22, 2017**



**Dear, Jim**

**The Mass. Joint Committee on the Judiciary is Suffering from Constipation!**



**Pitty the members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. . . . .**

**As my headline says, the Committee is suffering from a miserable case of Constipation.**

**--Now, I know we fed them the proper diet of information.**

**--We gave to them many doses of our Horror Stories at the Commonwealth Conversations meetings, and provided them with plenty of reading material to allow them to get things moving.**

**The chairman of the Joint Committee, Senator Will Brownsberger seems to be ignoring the urge to push things along claiming that he is afraid of causing pain. While there are some recipients of Spousal Support that may experience some discomfort with the Passage of H 740, it is a question of NEED vs. GREED. At least one of the complaints at the Judiciary Hearing was mostly HOT AIR as she is worth well over a million dollars. As I have repeated many time, a recipient spouse with solid evidence of need is protected by Judicial Discretion in the form of Deviation Factors.**

**Currently Senator Brownsberger says that the Judiciary is working on other issues and will not be dealing with the Alimony Reform issue until next February, 2018. While I do respect the Senator as an honorable person, I do not feel very comfortable that after all of our efforts he is not sympathetic to the plight of the Alimony Payer.**

**So, what do we do to get things moving along?**

- 1. Sit tight for the summer.**
- 2. In September we make an all out effort to re-educate our Legislators. Your continued interaction with your legislators is the "EX-LAX" that will get things moving.**

**3. If any of you have a relationship with a news media person, reach out to them to cover our story.**



**4. Be patient, the legislative process take a lot of patience.**

**5. Call me if you are interested in negotiating a deal to end your alimony. A negotiated Settlement is far better than a Litigated Judgment.**



## **The Following is the Massachusetts Legislative Process.**

### **1. Bill Filing Date**

**: Bills must be filed by the 3rd Friday of January. This session it was January 20, 2017.**

**Done!**

**2. Co-Sponsors: In order for a Bill to get traction, it needs "Co-Sponsors". This session, Senate and House Co-Sponsors can sign on until February 4, 2017**

**Done!**

**3. Committees: The Bills are then assigned to a Committee. In the case of our Bill, H 871. it will be assianed to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. The**

**Committees are required to hold public hearings on the Bill.**

**We need all of you to testify**

**Done!**

**NEXT!**

- 4. The Executive Hearing: The Bill then goes to an Executive Hearing where it is recommended to the Clerk one of three things.
  - a. The bill ought to pass**
  - b. The bill ought not to pass**
  - c. The bill ought be put into a study (usually the kiss of death.****
- 5. Three Readings: If the Bill gets a favorable report, it then goes to a process known as "Three Readings"**
- 6. The First Reading: is by the Branch who sponsored the Bill. In our case, the House. If it get a favorable vote, it will then go to the Committee on "Steering and Policy" or "Ways and Means".**
- 7. Second Reading: - If the Bill get a Favorable report, it goes to be heard on the Floor. It is here that it is discussed and usually where amendments occur.**
- 8. Third Reading: -If the Bill gets a Favorable report, it goes to the "Committee on Bills" where it is reviewed for technicalities and proper citations. It can again be debated and amended.**
- 9. Engrossed: If released from the Committee on Third Reading, the bill is brought before the membership for debate and a vote on "passage of the bill to be engrossed."**
- 10. If the bill is engrossed: it is sent to the other chamber to repeat the Three Reading process and engrossment.**
- 11. The Governor Sians the Bill into Law.**

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**Remember, "If we let up we lose, and we are not losing  
because we are not letting up!"**

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**Your financial support is greatly appreciated!**

**Feel free to call me or e-mail me with any questions.**

**Stephen K. Hitner, President, Mass Alimony Reform**

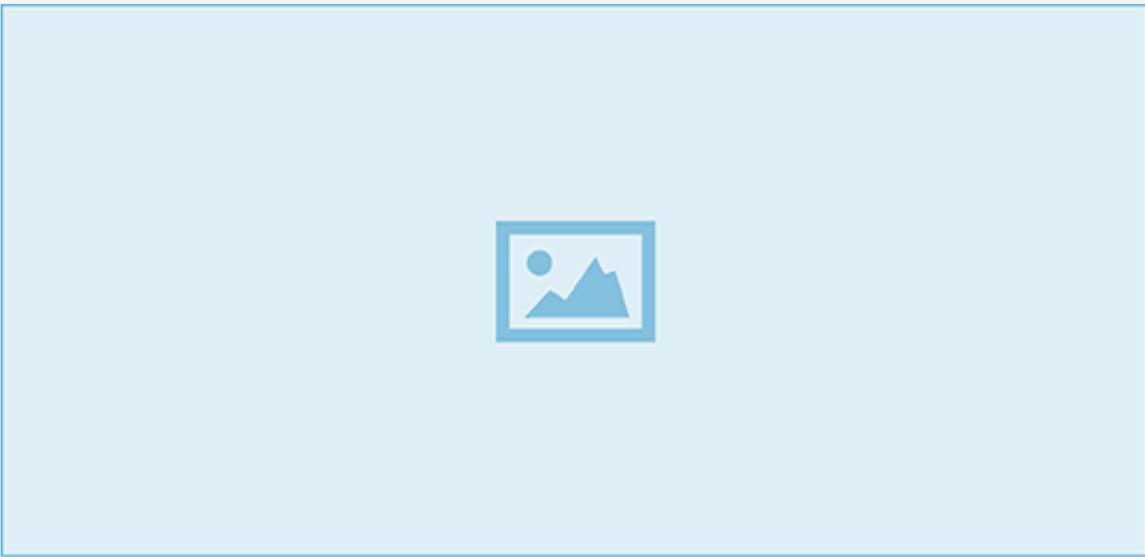
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