

SENATE No. 1790

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven C. Panagiotakos (BY REQUEST)

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 relative to the disclosure of documents within the Judicial Nominating Commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Marilyn M. Pettito-Devaney

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

98 Westminster Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS WITHIN THE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION.

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 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 39b
2 the following:

3 Section 39C. The judicial nomination committee, or any succeeding judicial nomination
4 committee or commission, however named and however constituted, shall make available as a public
5 document all endorsement letters, e-mails and notes of any kind, submitted or provided to said committee,
6 commission or members, for any individual appointed as a judicial officer. Said letters, e-mails and notes
7 shall become a public document through the State House library no later than six days after such a
8 nomination by the governor.

9 This section shall apply only to that individual who is chosen by the governor to occupy a
10 particular judicial office and does not apply to those applicants who were not nominated. This section
11 will have no effect on the assurance of confidentiality made by the governor or such advisory committee
12 to applicants in general. The judicial nominating committee records, or the records of any succeeding
13 judicial nomination committee or commission, however named and however constituted, concerning that
14 individual actually appointed, shall become a public record through the State House library no later than
15 ten days after the individual nominee is sworn in.