SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1689 FILED ON: 1/16/2015

SENATE . . . . . No. 1734

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 relative to employee settlements.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*
Viriato M. deMacedo	*Plymouth and Barnstable*
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	*Second Hampden and Hampshire*
Richard J. Ross	*Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 1734

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1734) of Bruce E. Tarr, Viriato M. deMacedo, Donald F. Humason, Jr. and Richard J. Ross for legislation relative to the confidentiality of employee settlements. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *1548* OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act relative to employee settlements.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Except as required by law, a state agency, executive office, department, board, commission, bureau, division or authority of the commonwealth, or of any political subdivision thereof, acting in its capacity as an employer, may not enter into a contract, severance or settlement agreement with an employee or former employee directing that employee or former employee to agree to keep confidential the nature and terms of an agreement portending to keep disclosed benefits received by the employee or preventing the employee from freely expressing an opinion about the employer or an agent of the employer, unless the employer shall create and make publicly available, as specified by section 10 of chapter 66 of the General Laws, a detailed statement declaring why it is in the public's best interest that the employer and employee or former employee include such language into the contract, severance

11 or settlement agreement. The detailed statement shall be made available within 24 hours of the

12 contract, severance or settlement agreement becoming enforceable.