

SENATE No. 180

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 transparency of economic development spending.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

SENATE No. 180

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 180) of James B. Eldridge, Denise Provost, Daniel M. Donahue, Jason M. Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to transparency of economic development spending. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to transparency of economic development spending.

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. The General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, are hereby
2 amended by inserting after Chapter 30B the following additional section:-

3 Chapter 30C

4 TRANSPARENCY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPENDING.

5 Section 1. As used in Chapter 30C, the following words shall, unless the context clearly
6 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

7 “Development subsidy” means any expenditure of public funds with a value of at least
8 \$25,000.00 for the purpose of stimulating economic development within the Commonwealth,
9 including but not limited to bonds, grants, loans, loan guarantees, enterprise zones,
10 empowerment zones, tax increment financing, grants, fee waivers, land price subsidies, matching
11 funds, tax abatements, tax exemptions, and tax credits.

12 “Property-taxing entity” means any entity that levies taxes upon real or personal property.

13 “State” means an agency, board, commission, office, public benefit corporation or public
14 benefit authority of the Commonwealth.

15 Section 2. Unified Economic Development Budget

16 (a) The Massachusetts Department of Revenue shall submit an annual Unified Economic
17 Development Budget to the Legislature no later than three months after the end of the
18 Commonwealth’s fiscal year. The report shall present all types of expenditures for economic
19 development during the prior fiscal year, including but not limited to:

20 (1) The amount of uncollected state tax revenues resulting from every corporate tax
21 credit, abatement, exemption and reduction provided by the Commonwealth's or a local
22 governmental unit including but not limited to gross receipts, income, sales, use, raw materials,
23 excise, property, utility, and inventory taxes.

24 (2) The name of each corporate taxpayer which claimed any tax credit, abatement,
25 exemption or reduction under subdivision (i) of any value equal to or greater than \$5,000,
26 together with the dollar amount received by each such corporation.

27 (3) Any tax credit, abatement, exemption or reduction received by a corporation of less
28 than \$5,000 each shall not be itemized. The Department of Revenue shall report an aggregate
29 dollar amount of such expenditures and the number of companies so aggregated for each tax
30 expenditure.

31 (4) All state appropriated expenditures for economic development, including line-item
32 budgets for every state-funded entity concerned with economic development, including but not

33 limited to, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, Massachusetts Marketing
34 Partnership, Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation, Massachusetts Office of Business
35 Development, Massachusetts Office of International Trade and Investment, Office of Small
36 Business & Entrepreneurship, Seaport Advisory Council, Department of Housing and
37 Community Development, Office of Indian Affairs, Department of Consumer Affairs and
38 Business Regulation, Division of Insurance, Division of Banks, State Racing Commission,
39 Division of Professional Licensure, Division of Standards, Department of Revenue, Department
40 of Telecommunications and Cable, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development,
41 Department of Workforce Development, Commonwealth Corporation, Division of Apprentice
42 Training, Division of Career Services, Division of Unemployment Assistance, Department of
43 Labor, Division of Occupational Safety, Labor Relations Council, Division of Labor Relations,
44 Joint Labor Management Committee, Division of Industrial Accidents, Workers Compensation
45 Advisory Council, Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission, Affirmative Market Program,
46 Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources, BDC Capital, Community Economic
47 Development Assistance Corporation, Massachusetts Office of International Trade and
48 Investment, Massachusetts Development Finance Agency, Massachusetts Export Center,
49 Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network, State Office of Minority and
50 Women Business Assistance, Office of Technical Assistance and Technology, Massachusetts
51 Technology Collaborative, Massachusetts Life Science Center.

52 (5) The Department of Revenue shall annually compile and publish all of the data
53 contained in the reports required under paragraph (a) in both written and electronic form. The
54 information in the report shall be included as part of the Searchable Website administered by the
55 Secretary of Administration and Finance.

56 Section 3. Unified Reporting of Property Tax Reductions and Abatements

57 (a) Each property-taxing entity shall annually submit a report to the Massachusetts
58 Department of Revenue regarding any real property in the entity's jurisdiction that has received a
59 development subsidy of at least \$5,000 in the form of a property tax abatement or reduction
60 during the fiscal year. The report shall contain information including but not limited to: the name
61 of the property owner; the address of the property; the start and end dates of the property tax
62 reduction or abatement; the schedule of the tax reduction; each tax abatement, reduction and
63 exemption for the property; and the amount of property tax revenue not paid to the taxing entity
64 as a result of the reduction or abatement.

65 (b) Each property-taxing entity shall also submit a report to the Department of Revenue
66 setting forth the total property tax revenue not paid to such entity during the fiscal year as a result
67 of all property tax reductions and abatements in the entity's jurisdiction.

68 (c) The reports required under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section shall be prepared on
69 two forms prepared by the Department, and shall be submitted to the Department of Revenue by
70 the property- taxing entity no later than three months after the end of the fiscal year.

71 (d) The Department of Revenue shall annually compile and publish all of the data
72 contained in the reports required under paragraphs (a) and (b) in both written and electronic
73 form. The information in the report shall be included as part of the Searchable Website
74 administered by the Secretary of Administration and Finance.

75 (e) If a property-taxing entity fails to submit its reports to the Department or Revenue
76 within the prescribed time, the Department shall notify the Comptroller of the Commonwealth,

77 whereupon the Comptroller shall withhold further payments of any development subsidy to the
78 delinquent entity until the entity files its reports with the Department.