

SENATE No. 1910

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:

Bruce E. Tarr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1910

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1910) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation relative to the confidentiality of employee settlements. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1773 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

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:

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