

SENATE No. 2031

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 advancing taxpayers' right to know.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>

SENATE No. 2031

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2031) of Joanne M. Comerford, Erika Uyterhoeven and Jack Patrick Lewis for legislation to provide federal and state budget information to residents of the commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1819 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act advancing taxpayers' right to know.

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 7 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
2 new section:-

3 Section 63. The treasurer, in coordination with the secretary of the commonwealth, shall
4 provide a short summary each year to be mailed to Massachusetts resident taxpayers by March
5 15, which reports the total amount of income tax paid by Massachusetts residents to the federal
6 government in the prior year, together with the per cent of those dollars appropriated in the prior
7 year's Congressional discretionary budget to housing, education, health care, public transit,
8 biomedical research, veterans services, food stamps and assistance, environmental protection,
9 and defense spending, including nuclear weapons. The summary shall include this information in
10 the form of a pie chart or bar graph, and using the budget numbers reported by the federal

11 Congressional Budget Office. The summary shall also include information noting that Medicare
12 and Social Security programs are financed as trust funds and are not financed through income
13 taxes.

14 The summary shall also include a report on the commonwealth's annual budget for the
15 prior fiscal year. The report shall communicate the per cent of the budget allocated to housing,
16 education, health care, public transit, criminal justice, veterans services, food stamps and
17 assistance, environmental protection, and conservation and recreation. The report shall also
18 include the contribution of federal funds being returned to Massachusetts in those categories.
19 The report shall include this information in the form of a pie chart or bar graph.

20 The information required under this section may be acquired from any nonpartisan, third-
21 party organization that regularly compiles such data; provided, there may be an agreement with
22 such an organization to produce the report.