

SENATE No. 2107

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rebecca L. Rausch

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 expanding the public records law.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/1/2021</i>

SENATE No. 2107

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2107) of Rebecca L. Rausch and James B. Eldridge for legislation to expand the public records law. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act expanding the public records law.

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. Section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “chapter 32” in line 157, the
3 following words:- , or by the general court, or by the office of the governor of the
4 commonwealth.

5 SECTION 2. Said section 7 of chapter 4, as so appearing, is hereby further amended in
6 paragraph twenty-sixth, by inserting the following new subparagraphs:

7 (v) communications between a member of the general court, or such member’s employee,
8 agent, or representative, and any constituent of such member; provided, however, that the
9 communications reasonably relate to a constituent’s request for assistance in obtaining
10 government-provided benefits or services or otherwise interacting with a state or federal agency;
11 or

12 (w) communications, memoranda, drafts or other documents relating to developing policy
13 positions of members of the general court or the governor of the commonwealth.

14 SECTION 3: Section 1A of chapter 66 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
15 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words “agencies and municipalities” in
16 each place that they appear, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- agencies and
17 municipalities, the general court, and the governor.

18 SECTION 4: Said section 1A of chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby further amended
19 by striking out the words “agency or municipality” in lines 5-6 and inserting in place thereof the
20 following words:- agency, municipality, the general court, or the governor.

21 SECTION 5: Section 6A of said chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
22 striking out the words “agency and municipality” in each place that they appear, and inserting in
23 place thereof the following words:- agency, municipality, the general court, and the governor.

24 SECTION 6: Section 10 of said chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
25 striking out the words “agency or municipality” in each place that they appear, and inserting in
26 place thereof the following words:- agency, municipality, the general court, or the governor.

27 SECTION 7: Said section 10 of chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby further amended
28 by striking out the words “agency or municipality” in each place that they appear, and inserting
29 in place thereof the following words:- agency, municipality, the general court, or the governor.

30 SECTION 8: Said chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out section
31 18 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

32 Section 18. Declarations, affidavits and other papers filed by claimants in the office of
33 the commissioner of veterans' services, or records kept by him for reference by the officials of
34 his office, shall not be public records.

35 SECTION 9: The provisions of this act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.