

SENATE No. 1136

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

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 domestic violence reports and confidentiality.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>John C. Velis</i> | <i>Hampden and Hampshire</i> | |
| <i>Steven George Xiarhos</i> | <i>5th Barnstable</i> | <i>3/9/2023</i> |

SENATE No. 1136

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1136) of John C. Velis and Steven George Xiarhos for legislation relative to domestic violence reports and confidentiality. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to domestic violence reports and confidentiality.

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

1 Chapter 41 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 97D the
2 following section:-

3 Section 97D½. (a) There shall be a task force established to complete a systematic review
4 of the laws pertaining to domestic violence reports and confidentiality. The task force shall
5 consist of: the attorney general or a designee; the president of the Massachusetts District
6 Attorneys Association or a designee; the colonel of the state police or a designee; the executive
7 director of Massachusetts office for victim assistance or a designee; 2 persons appointed by the
8 senate president; 2 persons appointed by the speaker of the house; and 2 persons appointed by
9 the governor. The members of the task force shall appoint a chair.

10 (b) The task force shall: (i) assess the adequacy of laws pertaining to domestic violence
11 and confidentiality including, but not limited to, section 97D of chapter 41 of the General Laws;

12 (ii) identify and review the impact of said section 97D; and (iii) develop recommendations to
13 ensure confidentiality of domestic violence survivors without protecting perpetrators.

14 (c) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and legislative recommendations to
15 the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives and the chairs of the joint committee on
16 the judiciary not later than 18 months after the effective date of this act. The task force shall
17 determine if subsequent reports shall be necessary to properly address this issue.