HOUSE . . . . No. 2031

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Andres X. Vargas

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:	DATE ADDED:
Andres X. Vargas	*3rd Essex*	*1/17/2025*
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*	*3/3/2025*
Samantha Montaño	*15th Suffolk*	*3/18/2025*
Mindy Domb	*3rd Hampshire*	*3/31/2025*
Natalie M. Higgins	*4th Worcester*	*4/7/2025*
John C. Velis	*Hampden and Hampshire*	*4/7/2025*
Danillo A. Sena	*37th Middlesex*	*4/16/2025*
Leigh Davis	*3rd Berkshire*	*4/29/2025*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*	*6/17/2025*
Vanna Howard	*17th Middlesex*	*7/25/2025*
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	*12th Hampden*	*7/25/2025*
Natalie M. Blais	*1st Franklin*	*9/23/2025*
Marjorie C. Decker	*25th Middlesex*	*9/23/2025*

HOUSE . . . . No. 2031

By Representative Vargas of Haverhill, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2031) of Andres X. Vargas and Jason M. Lewis relative to domestic violence reports and confidentiality. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

_____

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 and sexual assault reports and confidentiality. The

5 task force shall consist of: the attorney general or a designee; the president of the Massachusetts

6 District Attorneys Association or a designee; the colonel of the state police or a designee; the

7 executive director of Massachusetts office for victim assistance or a designee; 2 members

8 appointed by the senate president, 1 of whom shall represent domestic or sexual violence

9 programs in the Commonwealth, have experience working directly with survivors of domestic

10 and sexual violence, or be a survivor of domestic or sexual violence; 2 members appointed by

11 the speaker of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall represent domestic or sexual

12 violence programs in the Commonwealth, have experience working directly with survivors of

13   domestic and sexual violence, or be a survivor of domestic or sexual violence; 1 member

14   appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the

15   house of representatives; and 2 persons appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall represent

16   domestic or sexual violence programs in the Commonwealth, have experience working directly

17   with survivors of domestic and sexual violence, or be a survivor of domestic or sexual violence.

18   The members of the task force shall appoint a chair.

19   (b) The task force shall: (i) assess the adequacy of laws pertaining to domestic violence,

20   sexual assault, and confidentiality including, but not limited to, section 97D of chapter 41 of the

21   General Laws; (ii) identify and review the impact of said section 97D; and (iii) develop

22   recommendations to ensure confidentiality of domestic violence survivors without protecting

23   perpetrators.

24   (c) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and legislative recommendations to

25   the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives and the chairs of the joint committee on

26   the judiciary not later than 18 months after the effective date of this act. The task force shall

27   determine if subsequent reports shall be necessary to properly address this issue.