HOUSE . . . . . No. 5004

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

INITIATIVE PETITION OF DANIELLE SUSAN ALLEN AND OTHERS.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

BOSTON, January 7, 2026.

Timothy Carroll
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Sir: — I herewith transmit to you, in accordance with the requirements of Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution "An Initiative Petition for a Law to Improve Access to Public Records," signed by ten qualified voters and filed with this department on or before December 3, 2025, together with additional signatures of qualified voters in the number of 89,013, being a sufficient number to comply with the provisions of said Article.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

AN INITIATIVE PETITION.

Pursuant to Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as amended, the undersigned qualified voters of the Commonwealth, ten in number at least, hereby petition for the enactment into law of the following measure:

FILED ON: 1/21/2026

HOUSE . . . . . No. 5004

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to improve access to public records.

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority, as follows:

SECTION 1. The first paragraph of Clause Twenty-Sixth of Section 7 of Chapter 4 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the words “chapter 32” the following phrase “or by the general court, or by the office of the governor of the commonwealth,”.

SECTION 2. Said Clause Twenty-Sixth of Section 7 of Chapter 4 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting the following new subparagraphs following subparagraph (v):-

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

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

SECTION 3. The third sentence of the first paragraph of Section 6A of Chapter 66 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking said third sentence and inserting in place thereof the following:-

For the purposes of this chapter the term "agency" shall mean any entity, other than a municipality, that is identified in clause twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 as possessing "public records," as defined therein, including the general court and the office of the governor of the commonwealth.

SECTION 4. Section 18 of Chapter 66 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking said Section 18 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

Section 18. Declarations, affidavits and other papers filed by claimants in the office of the secretary of veterans' services or records kept by the secretary for reference by the officials of their office, shall not be considered public records for the purposes of this chapter.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

FIRST TEN SIGNERS

NAME	RESIDENCE	CITY OR TOWN
Danielle Susan Allen	102 Otis Street, #2	Cambridge
Diana Fay DiZoglio	30 Olive Street	Methuen
Philip John Edmundson	55 Cottage Street	Hingham
Jennifer Ann Nassour	12 Mountview Road	Wellesley
Rachel A. Poliner	44 Clement Avenue	Boston
Vivian Birchall	16 Wampus Avenue, #14	Acton
Kate Kavanagh	409 Old Bedford Road	Concord
Kevin Pitney Johnson	131 Windsor Road	Newton
Peter D. Enrich	56 North Tabor Farm Road	Chilmark
Richard Jeffrey Lyman	41 Turkey Shore Road	Ipswich

CERTIFICATE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

September 3, 2025.

Honorable William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
One Ashburton Place, Room 1705
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Re: Initiative Petition No. 25-14: Initiative Petition for a Law to Improve Access to Public Records

Dear Secretary Galvin:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 48 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, I have reviewed the above-referenced initiative petition, which was submitted to me on or before the first Wednesday of August of this year.

I hereby certify that this measure is in proper form for submission to the people; that the measure is not, either affirmatively or negatively, substantially the same as any measure which has been qualified for submission or submitted to the people at either of the two preceding biennial state elections; and that it contains only subjects that are related or are mutually dependent and which are not excluded from the initiative process pursuant to Article 48, the Initiative, Part 2, Section 2.

In accordance with Article 48, I enclose a fair, concise summary of the measure.

Sincerely,

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL,
Attorney General.

SUMMARY OF 25-14

This proposed law would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. This proposed law would exempt documents related to the development of public policy and communications between legislators and their constituents, if those communications are reasonably related to a constituent's request for assistance in obtaining government-provided benefits or services or interacting with a government agency.