

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 5414**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MINORITY REPORT  
ON THE  
INITIATIVE PETITION  
OF  
DANIELLE SUSAN ALLEN  
AND OTHERS  
FOR THE PASSAGE OF AN ACT  
TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS  
(SEE HOUSE, NO. 5004)

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May 6, 2026.

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## MINORITY REPORT.

### Relative to Improving Access to Public Records

The Legislature has a fundamental responsibility to operate with openness and integrity, and adopting this initiative is a critical step toward fulfilling that obligation. Every executive branch agency and department in the Commonwealth, along with municipal government entities, are required to comply with the public records law, ensuring that residents have access to information about how their government functions. The public entrusts elected officials with significant authority, and with that authority comes the expectation of transparency, accountability, and accessibility. Strengthening public records access would align the Legislature with the practices already adhered to by other state entities. Transparency is not a burden, it is a core feature of good governance, and one that residents should never be denied.

For these reasons, the minority of the Committee recommends that the General Court adopt Initiative Petition 25 14, House 5004, Initiative Petition for a Law to Improve Access to Public Records.

Senator.  
Ryan C. Fattman