

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jessica Ann Giannino

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 for the protection and privacy of social care information.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act for the protection and privacy of social care information.

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. The General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, are hereby
2 amended by inserting after chapter 93L the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 93M. Protection and Privacy of Social Care Information

4 SECTION 2. Definitions

5 “Closed-Loop Referral System” or “CLRS” means any system that stores the social care
6 information of one or more individuals; enables the sharing of social care information with and
7 between participating entities for the purpose of referring individuals for social care; and is
8 capable of updating or showing updated referral activity, including data related to participating
9 organizations completing referrals.

10 “Participating organization” means any entity that has the ability to create, receive, or
11 update referrals, or other social care information in a CLRS, including, but not limited to,

12 healthcare providers, health plans, public agencies, charitable and nonprofit organizations, CLRS
13 technology vendors, and entities that provide social care.

14 “Social care” means care, services, goods, or supplies related to an individual’s social
15 needs. “Social care” includes, but is not limited to, support and assistance for an individual’s
16 food stability and nutritional needs, housing, transportation, economic stability, employment,
17 education access and quality, child care and family relationship needs, and environmental and
18 physical safety.

19 “Social care information” means any information that relates to the need for, payment
20 for, or provision of social care, and identifies the person receiving social care, or for which there
21 is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual receiving
22 social care.

23 SECTION 3.

24 (a) In a manner that is consistent with federal and State law, a participating organization
25 shall not sell or license social care information that is stored in or transmitted through a closed-
26 loop referral system.

27 (b) In a manner that is consistent with federal and State law, social care information
28 stored in or transmitted through a closed-loop referral system shall not be used for any purpose
29 other than the purpose for which that information was collected or generated.

30 (c) A participating organization that sells, offers for sale, licenses, or otherwise furnishes,
31 provides, or transmits to any other individual or entity social care information in violation of this
32 section shall be liable to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each violation.

33 (d) A civil penalty assessed pursuant to this section shall be collected and enforced by the
34 attorney general.

35 SECTION 4. Implementation

36 The attorney general may adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations as shall be
37 necessary for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of this chapter.

38 SECTION 5. Effective Date

39 This act shall take effect 90 days following the date of enactment.