

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam J. Scanlon

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 establishing a commission regarding the privacy of sensitive information in legal documents.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</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 establishing a commission regarding the privacy of sensitive information in legal documents.

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. There shall be a commission to study and make recommendations to the
2 joint committee on the judiciary, the Chief Justice of the Trial Court, and the Court
3 Administrator for the Trial Court regarding the accessibility and privacy of sensitive information
4 in court documents.

5 SECTION 2. The commission shall consist of 2 members appointed by the senate
6 president, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair of the joint committee on the judiciary, and 1 of
7 whom shall serve as co-chair of the commission; 2 members appointed by the speaker of the
8 house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be the house chair of the joint committee on the
9 judiciary, and 1 of whom shall serve as co-chair of the commission; 1 member appointed by the
10 minority leader of the senate; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house of
11 representatives; the secretary of public safety and security or a designee; the chief justice of the
12 trial court or a designee; the court administrator for the trial court or a designee; 2 members
13 appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be an expert on inter-partner violence, abuse and

14 harassment, and 1 of whom shall be an expert on transparency and public records laws; and 1
15 person appointed from each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts Chapter of the
16 Association of Family and Conciliation Courts; the Mass Family Advocacy Coalition, the
17 Massachusetts Bar Association; Jane Doe, Inc.

18 SECTION 3. The commission shall consider and make recommendations concerning
19 whether and how certain sensitive information, including but not limited to residential and
20 mailing addresses, financial and banking information, social security numbers, medical
21 information, names and dates of birth of children, child custody agreement terms, child support
22 agreement amounts, should be publicly accessible in legal documents in the court system. These
23 recommendations shall include:

24 (i) whether any such information should or should not be accessible online;

25 (ii) whether any such information should or should not be accessible only by request in
26 person at a courthouse, and what the conditions for such a successful request should be.

27 SECTION 4. The commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the joint
28 committee on the judiciary, the Chief Justice of the Trial Court, and to the Court Administrator
29 for the Trial Court on or before January 1, 2026.