

SENATE No. 1135

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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 authorizing electronic signatures for criminal complaints.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Patricia D. Jehlen

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Middlesex

SENATE No. 1135

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1135) of Patricia D. Jehlen relative to authorizing electronic signatures for criminal complaints. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1490 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to authorizing electronic signatures for criminal complaints.

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. Section 22 of chapter 276 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “subscribed”, in line 4, the
3 words:- , electronically or in person

4 SECTION 2. Section 22 of chapter 276 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
5 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 7, the following words after the word
6 “Procedure.”:- If a complaint is submitted electronically by the complainant, the complainant, if
7 a law enforcement officer, may, in lieu of being examined on oath by justice, subscribe to the
8 complaint under the pains and penalties of perjury.

9 SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 275 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
10 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “subscribed”, in line 5, the
11 words:- , electronically or in person

12 SECTION 4. Section 2 of chapter 275 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
13 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 5, the following words after the word
14 “complainant.”:- If a complaint is submitted electronically by the complainant, the complainant,
15 if a law enforcement officer, may, in lieu of being examined on oath by such court or a justice,
16 subscribe to the complaint under the pains and penalties of perjury.