

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1248**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Rebecca L. Rausch***

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*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 codifying organizational standing to protect and promote civil rights.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1248**

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1248) of Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to codify public interest organizational standing to protect and promote civil rights. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act codifying organizational standing to protect and promote civil rights.

*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 1 of chapter 151B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 3, after the word “corporations”, the  
3 following words:- , public interest organizations.

4 SECTION 2. Said section 1 of said chapter 151B, as so appearing, is hereby further  
5 amended by inserting after paragraph 23 the following paragraph:-

6 24. The term “public interest organization” shall mean any non-profit organization which  
7 is organized or operating in whole or in part for the purpose of combating discrimination or bias,  
8 of safeguarding civil rights or of promoting interests or rights under this chapter.

9 SECTION 3. Section 5 of said chapter 151B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
10 inserting, after the first sentence, the following sentence:- Without limiting or excluding any  
11 other basis for a complaint, a public interest organization may be aggrieved if a purpose or  
12 activities to achieve that purpose were perceptively impaired by an alleged unlawful practice or

13 violation; or if an alleged unlawful practice or violation was directed at the public interest  
14 organization or its agents or employees; or where the public interest organization has a sufficient  
15 nexus to the interests of the person or persons whose interests are harmed by an alleged unlawful  
16 practice or violation.

17 SECTION 4. Section 9 of chapter 151B, as so appearing, is hereby amended in the  
18 second paragraph by inserting, after the first sentence, the following sentence:- Without limiting  
19 or excluding any other basis for a civil action, a public interest organization may be aggrieved if  
20 a purpose or activities to achieve that purpose were perceptively impaired by an alleged unlawful  
21 practice; or if an alleged unlawful practice was directed at the public interest organization or its  
22 agents or employees; or where the public interest organization has a sufficient nexus to the  
23 interests of the person or persons whose interests are harmed by an alleged unlawful practice.