

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2742**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Rebecca L. Rausch***

*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 enhancing safety and security for candidates and professionals.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>11/4/2025</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>11/5/2025</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>11/6/2025</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>11/10/2025</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>

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By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2742) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Rebecca L. Rausch, James K. Hawkins, Brian M. Ashe, Michael O. Moore and others for legislation to enhance safety and security for candidates and professionals. Election Laws.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act enhancing safety and security for candidates and professionals.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to enhance the safety and security of candidates for public office and professionals, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety.

*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. Clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as  
2           appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended in subclause (o) by striking out, in line  
3           243, the words “the home address, personal email address and home telephone number of” and  
4           inserting in place thereof the following words:- the residential or home-based office address,  
5           personal email address and home, home-based office or personal mobile telephone number of an  
6           elected official, or.

7           SECTION 2. Section 5 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
8           Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 4, the word “residences” and inserting  
9           in place thereof the following words:- municipalities of residence.

10 SECTION 3. Section 6 of said chapter 53, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking  
11 out, in line 17, the word “addresses” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
12 municipalities of residence.

13 SECTION 4. Section 8 of said chapter 53, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking  
14 the first eight words in line 3 and inserting in place thereof the following words:- their  
15 municipality of residence; provided, however, that the secretary shall through alternate means  
16 collect each candidate’s residential address, with street and number, if any, which shall be  
17 maintained by the secretary in accordance with clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4.

18 SECTION 5. Section 34 of said chapter 53, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
19 striking out the last nine words in the fifth paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following  
20 words:- their municipality of residence; provided, however, that the secretary shall through  
21 alternate means collect each candidate’s residential address, with street and number, if any,  
22 which shall be maintained by the secretary in accordance with clause Twenty-sixth of section 7  
23 of chapter 4.

24 SECTION 6. Section 45 of said chapter 53, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
25 striking out, in lines 2 and 3, the words “his residence, with street and number thereof, if any”  
26 and inserting in place thereof the following words:- their municipality of residence.

27 SECTION 7. Section 106 of said chapter 53, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
28 striking out the last eight words in the fourth sentence and inserting in place thereof the  
29 following words:- precinct or ward, or both, as applicable, of the candidate’s residence.

30 SECTION 8. Section 41 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
31 official edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 6 and 7, the words “he resides, with

32 the name of the street and the number, if any, of his residence” and inserting in place thereof the  
33 following words:- the candidate resides.

34 SECTION 9. Said section 41 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
35 amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
36 To the name of each candidate for a county office shall be added the name of the city or town  
37 where the candidate resides. To the name of each candidate for city or town office shall be added  
38 the ward or precinct where the candidate resides, or both ward and precinct, as applicable.

39 SECTION 10. Said section 41 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
40 amended by striking out, in lines 28-30, the words “the name of the street on which they reside,  
41 with their street number, if any, and”.

42 SECTION 11. Section 41A of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
43 striking out, in line 4, the words “and addresses”.

44 SECTION 12. Section 42 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
45 striking out, in line 34, the words “address” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
46 municipality of residence.

47 SECTION 13. Said section 42 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
48 amended by striking out, in lines 41 and 44, the word “addresses” each time it appears and  
49 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- municipalities of residence.

50 SECTION 14. Section 49 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
51 striking out, in line 3, the word “residences” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
52 municipalities of residence.

53 SECTION 15. Section 50 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
54 striking out, in line 2, the word “residences” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
55 wards or precincts of residence, or both, as applicable.

56 SECTION 16. Section 51 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
57 striking out, in line 3, the word “residences” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
58 wards or precincts of residence, or both, as applicable.

59 SECTION 17. Section 77 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
60 adding, in line 8, before the word “residence” the following words:- municipality of.

61 SECTION 18. Section 78 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
62 adding, in line 19, before the word “residence” the following words:- municipality and state of.

63 SECTION 19. Section 78A of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
64 striking out, in line 4, the word “addresses” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
65 municipalities of residence.

66 SECTION 20. Said section 78A of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
67 amended by striking out, in line 5, the word “addresses” and inserting in place thereof the  
68 following words:- municipalities and states of residence.

69 SECTION 21. Section 10B of chapter 66 of the General Laws, as amended by chapter  
70 135 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the first 15 words of the second  
71 paragraph and inserting in place the following words:- The residential or home-based office  
72 address, personal email address and home, home-based office or personal mobile telephone  
73 number of an elected official, or law enforcement, judicial, prosecutorial, public defense.

74 SECTION 22. Said section 10B of said chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby further  
75 amended by inserting, in line 23, after the word “an” the following word:- applicable.

76 SECTION 23. Said chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting  
77 the following section:-

78 Section 10C. (a) For purposes of this section, the following words shall have the  
79 following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

80 “Elected official”, any person who has been duly elected to a public office and is  
81 currently serving in that position, has been elected to public office but has not yet begun their  
82 term, or has formerly held elected public office.

83 “Family member”, a spouse, intended spouse, child, parent, sibling, or other person living  
84 in the same residence as a protected person.

85 “Judicial officer”, any person who serves as a clerk, clerk-magistrate, assistant clerk, or  
86 other individual serving in a role that helps facilitate judicial processes.

87 “Non-residential family member”, a spouse, intended spouse, child, parent, or sibling of a  
88 protected person who does not live in the same residence as the protected person.

89 “Personal information”, any of the following elements, whether or not in combination  
90 with another listed element: residential address, home-based office address, personal email  
91 address, home telephone number, home-based office telephone number, personal mobile  
92 telephone number, direct telephone number to a judicial officer’s private chambers, social  
93 security number, federal tax identification number, checking and savings account numbers, credit

94 or debit card numbers, birth or marital records, property tax records, and identities of children  
95 under the age of 18.

96 “Protected person”, an elected official, political candidate or candidates for public office,  
97 judge, judicial officer, law enforcement personnel, public prosecutors, public defenders, and state  
98 licensed professionals whose work subjects them to elevated safety risk.

99 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, including but not limited  
100 to section 10 of this chapter, a department, office, commission, committee, council, board,  
101 division, bureau, institution, authority, and other entity of the commonwealth or its political  
102 subdivisions shall not make public or otherwise produce or provide the personal information of a  
103 protected person or their family members, except as necessary for the protected person’s  
104 employment or as required by law enforcement, state or federal investigatory authority, judicial  
105 order or process, or other government action within the color of law.

106 (c) A non-residential family member, state licensed professional, or public employee who  
107 is not a protected person under this section may submit a written petition in a form and manner  
108 determined by the secretary of the executive office of technology services and supports seeking  
109 to have their personal information protected, consistent with the provisions of this section. The  
110 petition shall identify: (1) the individual whose information is to be protected; (2) the personal  
111 information sought to be protected; (3) the type or location of government record or records  
112 containing the information to be protected; and (4) reasonable cause to believe the protection is  
113 necessary. The petitioner shall submit the form directly to the department, office, commission,  
114 committee, council, board, division, bureau, institution, authority, and other entity of the  
115 commonwealth or its political subdivisions having custody of the petitioner’s personal

116 information. Upon verification of the information submitted on the completed petition, the  
117 petitioner shall be considered a protected person under this section and the custodial body shall,  
118 within 30 days, redact or remove the petitioner's identified personal information from public  
119 listings. Once redacted or removed, the personal information shall not be subsequently disclosed.

120 (d) An individual whose personal information is made public as a result of a violation of  
121 this section may bring an action seeking real or declaratory relief, or both, in any court of  
122 competent jurisdiction. A prevailing plaintiff may be awarded treble damages. A prevailing  
123 plaintiff shall be awarded costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

124 (e) The attorney general shall: (i) have concurrent jurisdiction with any private right of  
125 action brought pursuant to paragraph (d) to enforce the provisions of this section; and (ii) issue  
126 periodic determinations as to which state licensed professionals are deemed protected persons  
127 under this section due to work-related elevated safety risks.

128 SECTION 24. Chapter 265 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official  
129 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following section:

130 Section 37A. Intentional, willful, wanton, knowing, or grossly negligent publication,  
131 production, or provision of personal information in violation of section 10C of chapter 66 shall  
132 be punished by a fine of not more than \$50,000 or imprisonment in a house of correction for not  
133 more than two and one-half years, or both.

134 SECTION 25. Not later than 60 days after the effective date of this act, the secretary of  
135 the executive office of technology services and security shall provide training to employees of  
136 the commonwealth and its subdivisions whose job responsibilities include maintaining the  
137 privacy of protected persons or petitioners under this act.

138 SECTION 26. Not later than 90 days after the effective date of this act, the office of  
139 consumer affairs and business regulation shall provide educational resources to all protected  
140 persons and potential petitioners under this act.

141 SECTION 27. Not later than 120 days after the effective date of this act, any personal  
142 information of protected persons or family members, as those terms are defined in section 10C of  
143 chapter 66 of the General Laws, that is maintained by a department, office, commission,  
144 committee, council, board, division, bureau, institution, authority, and other entity of the  
145 commonwealth or its political subdivisions shall be: (a) removed or redacted from any public  
146 listing; and (b) protected from further disclosure consistent with this act. Such removal shall  
147 include, but shall not be limited to, removal of sample ballots from the websites of the secretary  
148 of the commonwealth and municipal clerks, as applicable. Removal efforts shall be documented  
149 in a report by each custodial entity. Not later than 135 days after the effective date of this act,  
150 such reports shall be submitted to the chairs of the joint committee on advanced information  
151 technology, the internet and cybersecurity, the chairs of the joint committee on election laws, the  
152 chairs of the joint committee on municipalities and regional government, the chairs of the joint  
153 committee on state administration and regulatory oversight, the chair of the senate committee on  
154 personnel and administration, and the chair of the house committee on human resources and  
155 employee engagement. The reports shall be exempt pursuant to subclause (a) of clause Twenty-  
156 sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws.

157 SECTION 28. This act shall take effect 30 days after its passage.