



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON
INITIATIVE PETITIONS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

Special Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions

Rep. Alice H. Peisch
House Chair

Sen. Cindy F. Friedman
Senate Chair

HEARING NOTICE

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM-4:30 PM

Location: A-1 and streamed virtual

The Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions will conduct a hearing in Room A-1, on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on ballot initiative NO. 25-14 An Act to improve access to public records (House, No. 5004).

The Joint Committee will hear invited testimony from subject matter experts, proponents, and opponents. The public is invited to participate in this hearing. Advanced registration to present in-person oral testimony is required of anyone other than those invited. Those wishing to register to testify may do so by emailing Mollie Cecconi at Mary.Cecconi@mahouse.gov. The deadline to register is Monday, March 2nd at 12 PM. Please include your name, address, whether you support or oppose the question, and whether your testimony is on behalf of yourself or an organization. Participation will be limited as the portion of the hearing dedicated to public testimony is scheduled for 30 minutes. Chairs will limit testimony of the public to 2 minutes per speaker.

Should more people register than time can accommodate, they will be directed to submit written testimony. Written testimony may be submitted by mail to the Special Committee on Initiative Petitions at 24 Beacon Street, Room 235, Boston, MA 02133 or via email at SpecialJointCommitteeonInitiativePetitions@malegislature.gov. The deadline to submit written testimony is Saturday, March 7th at 5:00 PM.

At the discretion of the Chairs and per committee rules, written testimony received by the committee will be made publicly available. The committee may limit availability or redact testimony that includes sensitive personal information, information about minors, or information that may jeopardize the health, wellness or safety of the testifier or others.

The livestream of this hearing will be available on the Legislature's website [here](#).

You may contact Committee staff with any questions at Mary.Cecconi@mahouse.gov or Elizabeth.Berman@masenate.gov.

Bill No.	Title
H5004	An Act to improve access to public records

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chairs per Committee rules.

Special Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions
Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER House, No. 5004

TITLE An Act to improve access to public records

HEARING DATE Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM

SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF NO. 25-14

This proposed law would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. This proposed law would exempt documents related to the development of public policy and communications between legislators and their constituents, if those communications are reasonably related to a constituent's request for assistance in obtaining government-provided benefits or services or interacting with a government agency.