

SENATE No. 2064

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 extending the public records law to the Governor and the Legislature.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>

SENATE No. 2064

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2064) of Rebecca L. Rausch, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, James B. Eldridge and Erika Uytterhoeven for legislation to extend the public records law to the Governor and the Legislature. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act extending the public records law to the Governor and the Legislature.

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 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 157, after the words “chapter 32” the
3 following words: - , or by the general court, or by the office of the governor of the
4 commonwealth.

5 SECTION 2. Said section 7 of chapter 4, as so appearing, is hereby further amended in
6 paragraph twenty-sixth by inserting the following new subparagraphs:

7 (v) communications between a member of the general court, or such member’s employee,
8 agent, or representative, and any constituent of such member; provided, however, that the
9 communications reasonably relate to a constituent’s request for assistance in obtaining
10 government-provided benefits or services or otherwise interacting with a state or federal agency;
11 or

12 (w) communications, memoranda, drafts or other documents relating to developing
13 policy positions of members of the general court or the governor of the commonwealth.

14 SECTION 3: Section 1A of chapter 66 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
15 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words “agencies and municipalities”, in
16 each instance, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- agencies, municipalities, the
17 general court, and the governor.

18 SECTION 4: Said section 1A of chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby further amended
19 by striking out the words “agency or municipality” in lines 5-6 and inserting in place thereof the
20 following words:- agency, municipality, the general court, or the governor.

21 SECTION 5: Section 6A of said chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
22 striking out the words “agency and municipality”, in each instance, and inserting in place thereof
23 the following words:- agency, municipality, the general court, and the governor.

24 SECTION 6: Section 10 of said chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
25 striking out the words “agency or municipality” in each instance, and inserting in place thereof
26 the following words:- agency, municipality, the general court, or the governor.

27 SECTION 7: Said section 10 of chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby further amended
28 by striking out the words “agency or municipality” in each instance, and inserting in place
29 thereof the following words:- agency, municipality, the general court, or the governor.

30 SECTION 8: Said chapter 66, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out section
31 18 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

32 Section 18. Declarations, affidavits and other papers filed by claimants in the office of
33 the commissioner of veterans' services, or records kept by him for reference by the officials of
34 his office, shall not be public records.

35 SECTION 9: The provisions of this act shall take effect on January 1, 2024.