

Initials

Initiative Petition for a Law to Improve Access to Public Records

(1) DSA

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority:

(2) _____

An Act to Improve Access to Public Records

(3) _____

SECTION 1.

(4) _____

The first paragraph of Clause Twenty-Sixth of Section 7 of Chapter 4 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the words "chapter 32" the following phrase "or by the general court, or by the office of the governor of the commonwealth,".

(5) _____

(6) CS

SECTION 2.

(7) _____

Said Clause Twenty-Sixth of Section 7 of Chapter 4 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting the following new subparagraphs following subparagraph (v):-

(8) _____

(9) _____

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

(10) _____

(11) _____

(12) _____

(13) _____

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

(14) MSS

(15) DS

SECTION 3.

The third sentence of the first paragraph of Section 6A of Chapter 66 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking said third sentence and inserting in place thereof the following:-

For the purposes of this chapter the term "agency" shall mean any entity, other than a municipality, that is identified in clause twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 as possessing "public records," as defined therein, including the general court and the office of the governor of the commonwealth.

SECTION 4.

Initials

(1) DSA

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) CS

(7) _____

(8) _____

(9) _____

(10) _____

(11) _____

(12) _____

(13) _____

(14) MSS

(15) DS

Section 18 of Chapter 66 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking said Section 18 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

Section 18. Declarations, affidavits and other papers filed by claimants in the office of the secretary of veterans' services or records kept by the secretary for reference by the officials of their office, shall not be considered public records for the purposes of this chapter.

SECTION 5.

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

[Signatories begin on the following page]