

HOUSE No. 1544

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carol A. Doherty

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 banning the publication of judicial and law enforcement officer addresses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>
<i>Steven G. Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/12/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1544

By Ms Doherty of Taunton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1544) of Carol A. Doherty and others relative to banning the publication of judicial and law enforcement officer addresses. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act banning the publication of judicial and law enforcement officer addresses.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 265 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 24C the
2 following section:-

3 Section 24D. (a) (1) A person shall not knowingly, with purpose to expose another to
4 harassment or risk of harm to life or property, post or publish on the Internet the home address,
5 unpublished home telephone number or personal email address of any active or retired law
6 enforcement officer as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E, judge of any court of law of the
7 commonwealth, state or county prosecutor or a spouse or child thereof. Whoever commits a
8 knowing violation of this section shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not
9 more than 5 years.

10 (2) A person shall not, in reckless disregard of the probability of exposing another to
11 harassment or risk of harm to life or property, post or publish on the Internet the home address,
12 unpublished home telephone number or personal email address of any active or retired law

13 enforcement officer as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E, judge of any court of law of the
14 commonwealth, state or county prosecutor or a spouse or child thereof. Whoever commits a
15 reckless violation of this subsection shall be punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of
16 correction for not more than 1 ½ years.

17 (b) A person shall not post or publish on the Internet the home address, unpublished
18 home telephone number or personal email address of any active or retired law enforcement
19 officer as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E, judge of any court of law of the commonwealth,
20 state or county prosecutor or the spouse or child thereof under circumstances in which a
21 reasonable person would believe that information would expose another to harassment or risk of
22 harm to life or property.

23 If a person violates this subsection, an aggrieved person or the attorney general or both
24 may commence a civil action. A court may award as remedies: (1) actual damages, but not less
25 than liquidated damages computed at the rate of \$1,000 for each violation of this act; (2) punitive
26 damages upon proof of willful or reckless disregard of the law; (3) reasonable attorney's fees and
27 other litigation costs reasonably incurred; and (4) any other preliminary and equitable relief as
28 the court determines to be appropriate.