

SENATE No. 1963

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 to provide sunlight to state government.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>

SENATE No. 1963

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1963) of James B. Eldridge, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Mike Connolly and Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to provide sunlight to state government. Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to provide sunlight to state government.

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 35 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “court”, in line 2, the following
3 words:- 1 week before the hearing

4 SECTION 2. Said section 35 of said chapter 3, as so appearing, is hereby further
5 amended by adding the following 4 paragraphs:-

6 If public testimony is being solicited, the legislative committee’s agenda shall include an
7 electronic mail address and physical mail address for the submission of testimony. The senate
8 and house clerk shall publish such information on the official website of the general court.

9 Said public testimony received by the legislative committee that is readily capable of
10 being reproduced shall be made available to the public upon request; provided, however, that the
11 legislative committee may redact public testimony that includes sensitive personal information or
12 information that may jeopardize the health, wellness or safety of an individual.

13 If the legislative committee solicits expert testimony, the legislative committee shall
14 make reasonable efforts to promote the diversity of expert witness panels. For purposes of this
15 section and section 35A, a legislative committee shall mean a joint committee, a committee
16 consisting exclusively of senate or house members or a special commission that is chaired by a
17 member of the general court.

18 SECTION 3. Chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
19 35 the following section:-

20 Section 35A. The senate and house clerks shall post all recorded votes of each member of
21 a legislative committee on the website of the general court as soon as practicable but no later
22 than 48 hours of the vote being taken; provided, however, that in the 2 weeks before the
23 conclusion of all formal business of the first annual session of the general court or the 2 weeks
24 before the conclusion of the second annual session of the general court the clerk shall post all
25 recorded votes as soon as practicable.

26 SECTION 4. Subclause 26 of section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing in
27 the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the figure “32,” in line 157, the
28 following words:- or office of the governor

29 SECTION 5. Section 4 shall apply to records of the office of the governor created or
30 received after noon on January 5, 2023.