

HOUSE No. 2098

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tricia Farley-Bouvier

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 codifying organizational standing.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 2098

By Representative Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2098) of Tricia Farley-Bouvier relative to public interest organizations under employment discrimination laws. Labor and Workforce Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act codifying organizational standing.

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 1 of chapter 151B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after the word “corporations”, the following:- , “public interest
3 organizations” and by inserting after Section 1 the following subsection:- “1A. The term “public
4 interest organization” includes any non-profit organization which is organized or operating in
5 whole or in part for the purpose of combating discrimination or bias, of safeguarding civil rights
6 or of promoting interests or rights under this Chapter.”

7 SECTION 2. Section 5 of chapter 151B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
8 amended by inserting after the words “required by the commission” the following sentence:-
9 “Without limiting or excluding any other basis for a complaint, a public interest organization
10 may be aggrieved if a purpose or activities to achieve that purpose were perceptively impaired by
11 an alleged unlawful practice or violation; or if an alleged unlawful practice or violation was
12 directed at the public interest organization or its agents or employees; or where the public

13 interest organization has a sufficient nexus to the interests of the person or persons whose
14 interests are harmed by an alleged unlawful practice or violation.”

15 SECTION 3. Section 9 of chapter 151B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
16 amended by inserting after the words “residential housing” the following sentence:- “Without
17 limiting or excluding any other basis for a civil action, a public interest organization may be
18 aggrieved if a purpose or activities to achieve that purpose were perceptively impaired by an
19 alleged unlawful practice; or if an alleged unlawful practice was directed at the public interest
20 organization or its agents or employees; or where the public interest organization has a sufficient
21 nexus to the interests of the person or persons whose interests are harmed by an alleged unlawful
22 practice.”