

SENATE No. 1455

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to provide for accountability and transparency in the finances of the commonwealth

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Richard R. Tisei	Middlesex and Essex
Michael R. Knapik	Second Hampden and Hampshire
Robert L. Hedlund	Plymouth and Norfolk
Scott P. Brown	Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex
Benjamin B. Downing	Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin
Steven A. Baddour	First Essex
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE FINANCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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. Definitions – For the purposes of this section, the terms below shall be
2 defined as follows:

3 (a) Entity – whether for-profit or not for profit,

4 1. a corporation

5 2. an association

6 3. a partnership

7 4. a limited liability corporation

8 5. a limited liability partnership

9 6. a sole proprietorship

10 7. any other legal business entity

11 8. a political subdivision of the Commonwealth

12 provided that an employee of the Commonwealth or an individual recipient of assistance
13 shall not be considered an entity.

14 (b) State expenditure – an expenditure of state funds including grants, subgrants, loans,
15 awards, cooperative agreements, financial assistance, contracts, subcontracts,
16 purchase order, task orders and delivery orders, and excluding transactions below
17 \$25,000.

- 18 1. Searchable website – a website which allows the public to:
- 19 a. Search and aggregate state expenditures by any item identified in the
20 definition of website contained herein
 - 21 b. Ascertain through a single search the total amount of state funding
22 awarded to an entity by fiscal year, and
 - 23 c. Download information, including the results of searches.

24 (c) Website – a searchable website which includes for each state expenditure:

- 25 1. The name of the receiving entity
- 26 2. The amount of the expenditure
- 27 3. Information describing the expenditure such as transaction type, funding
28 agency or program, and title descriptive of the purpose of the expenditure
- 29 4. The location of the entity receiving the expenditure and the primary location
30 of performance pursuant to the expenditure, including the city, state,
31 country and legislative district
- 32 5. A unique identifier of the entity receiving the award and of any parent entity
33 of the recipient
- 34 6. Any other relevant information specified by the Operational Services
35 Division.

36 SECTION 2. The Secretary of Administration and Finance, the Comptroller, the
37 Treasurer and the Operational Services Division are hereby authorized and directed to develop a
38 single searchable website, accessible by the public without cost, to enable the public to research
39 and examine state expenditures as defined herein. Said website shall be designed so as to
40 maximize utility, minimize cost and promote accessibility of information, and shall build upon
41 resources currently existing, including, but not limited to, the “EASI” website, so-called,
42 administered by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, and the Comm-Pass
43 system, so-called, administered by the Operational Services Division of the Executive Office of
44 Administration and Finance.

45 In developing said website, the Secretary shall seek to obtain the use of coding and other
46 information management infrastructure developed by the federal government pursuant to the
47 “Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006”.

48 Said website shall seek to provide information for Fiscal Year 2009 and subsequent
49 years.

50 A plan for the development and implementation of said website, together with any
51 estimates for funding required and other legislative recommendations, shall be filed with the
52 clerks of the House and Senate not later than November 30, 2009.