

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tarr, Bruce (SEN)

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:

Tarr, Bruce (SEN)

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex and Middlesex

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

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

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

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

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