

HOUSE No. 1775

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 establishing a self-defense exception.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2025</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 1775

By Representative Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1775) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others relative to establishing a self-defense exception in the interception of wire and oral communications. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1592 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a self-defense exception.

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

1 Subsection A of section 99 of chapter 272 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence in the third paragraph
3 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4 Therefore, the secret use of such devices by private individuals must be prohibited, unless
5 each of the following is true: (1) the individual is a party to the encounter that they are
6 surveilling; (2) the individual is not employed by a law enforcement entity, nor acting under the
7 auspices of one; and (3) the individual has a reasonable fear that the other party intends to
8 physically harm them, another person, or themselves.

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