

To: Professor Kealy
From: Sarah Perno
Date: May 13, 2022
RE: Legislative History for S.2963

The bill I researched was An Act Relative to Justice, Equity, and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth (Bill S.2963, 191st (2019-2020)) (“the Act”). I started my research on malegislature.gov, where I found all prior versions of the Act: H.4367, H.4886, H.4860, H.4398, H.4354, S.2981, S.2800, and S.2820. I also used this resource to find out which committees it went through: the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. Finally, I used this resource to find all of the roll call votes on different versions of the Act.

After this, I conducted a Google search as well as a search of the State House News Service database on the BU Law Library website to gather media reports and statements from Governor Baker regarding the Act during the time between its introduction and its passage.

I then used MassTrac to find testimony and floor debate from each version of the Act. I also used MassTrac to find the contact information for committee staff for each committee that the Act went through and I then emailed all of the staffers from each committee. I did not receive any responses from the staff for the House Committee on Ways and Means. I received a response from the Deputy General Counsel for the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, who sent me a summary of the Senate Ways and Means version of the Act, which he said was the only non-confidential material that he could share. I also received a response from a staff member for the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, who sent me several documents including a fact sheet, two summaries, and the final version of the Act.