



*State Library of Massachusetts*

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**Ms. Coll. 165**  
**Denise Provost Papers on Legislation**  
**Concerning Gender Identity and**  
**Nondiscrimination,**  
**1997-2017, bulk 2014-2016: Guide**

**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:** Provost, Denise

**Call Number:** Ms. Coll. 165

**Extent:** 2 boxes (.75 linear foot)

**Preferred Citation Style:** *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Denise Provost Papers on Legislation Concerning Gender Identity and Nondiscrimination. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

**Provenance:**

**About This Finding Aid:** Description based on DACS.

**Processed by:** Finding aid prepared by Ariel Barnes, June 2017.

**Abstract:** This collection contains materials related to the work Representative Denise Provost did on Transgender Public Accommodations Bills in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The collection contains personal papers related to Denise Provost's work on the Transgender Public Accommodations bill. This includes newspaper clippings, press releases, city ordinances, correspondence, publications, court decisions, and committee meeting material. There are documents provided by interest groups. Also included in this collection is the material Denise Provost used to research the bill. There is information relating to transgender rights in the United States and specifically in cities in Massachusetts. Drafts of the bill and amendments made to the bill are included in the collection. The Steering Committee worked to pass the Transgender Public Accommodations bill. The Steering Committee lobbied businesses and legislators for support and held events to provide information on the Transgender Public Accommodations bill.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

In 2006 Denise Provost was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for the 27<sup>th</sup> Middlesex district. Prior to being elected Denise Provost worked as Assistant City Solicitor and Alderman-at-large in Somerville. She also ran a private law firm and was an activist before becoming a representative. Denise Provost received her bachelor's degree from Bennington College and a law degree from Boston University. She has served on numerous committees while in the House of Representatives including the Joint Committee on Higher Education, the Joint Committee on Revenue, the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, and the House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change.

As the representative for the 27<sup>th</sup> Middlesex district Denise Provost cosponsored a bill concerning gender identity and nondiscrimination with Representative Byron Rushing in 2015.

The bill H.1577, known as An Act relative to gender identity and nondiscrimination, aimed to close a loophole in the 2012 Transgender Equal Rights Act that allowed transgender people to be discriminated against in public accommodations. The new bill would also allow transgender people to use bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity.

On May 2, 2016 the Judiciary Committee recommended that the House of Representatives pass H.4253, a new draft of the bill H.1577. H.4253 was amended to include a requirement that the attorney general's office issue regulations or guidance for law enforcement agencies on how to handle the actions of any person who asserts gender identity for "improper use". H.4253 also included an amendment that stated that the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination shall make policies and recommendations on how the law will work. On May 12, 2016 the Senate passed S.735 and on June 1, 2016 the House of Representatives passed H.4253. As H.4253 contained amendments not found in the S.735 bill and the bills were sent to the Transgender

Conference Committee in order to reach an agreement on the text used in the bill. On July 7, 2016 the Senate and House of Representatives passed the revised bill S.2047, which included the amendments found in H.4253.

The bill was signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker on July 8, 2016.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### ***Arrangement***

The papers are arranged in six series:

Series I: Newspaper clippings

Series II: Correspondence

Series III: Steering Committee Meeting Materials

Series IV: Bills and amendments

Series V: City ordinances

Series VI: Research material

### ***Conditions Governing Access***

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

### ***Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use***

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

### ***Languages and Scripts***

The collection is entirely in English.

### ***Immediate Source of Acquisition***

Transferred from Denise Provost's office, May 2017.

### ***Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling***

The following items have been removed from the collection and destroyed:

- Duplicate papers and folders were discarded.

### ***Conservation Note***

Preservation activities were performed on the collection as follows:

- Materials were removed from plastic sleeves and a 3-ring binder.

### ***Related Materials***

The following collections may also be of interest:

- (Ms. Coll. 040) Massachusetts. Supreme Judicial Court. Gender Bias Study Committee. Records, 1986-1990.

### ***Detailed Series Description and Container List***

#### ***Series I: Newspaper Clippings and Press Releases, 2008-2017***

##### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes clippings from local and national newspapers as well as press releases from organizations, Boston City Hall and the Massachusetts State House.

##### ***Arrangement***

Materials are arranged chronologically.

<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Newspaper Clippings	2008-2011
2	Newspaper Clippings	2013
3	Newspaper Clippings	2014
4	Newspaper Clippings	2015
5	Newspaper Clippings	2016
6	Newspaper Clippings	2017
7	Press Releases	2015-2016

#### ***Series II: Correspondence, 2015-2016***

##### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes correspondence between Representative Denise Provost and Representative Byron Rushing. Also included is correspondence with legislative aide Jordan Neerhof and constituents.

##### ***Arrangement***

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Folder #	Folder Title	Date
8	Correspondence with legislative aide Jordan Neerhof and Representative Byron Rushing	2015-2016
9	Correspondence with constituents	2015

### **Series III: *Steering Committee Meeting Materials, 2014-2016***

#### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes Steering Committee meeting notes, talking points, as well as lists of businesses and state legislators. Also included in the series are notes and invitations related to the Transgender Public Accommodations: A Conversation briefing held for legislators in July 2015.

#### ***Arrangement***

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Folder #	Folder Title	Date
10	Steering Committee meeting material	2014-2016
11	Transgender Public Accommodations: A Conversation materials	2015

### **Series IV: *Bills and amendments, 2011-2016***

#### ***Scope and Content***

This series includes drafts of the transgender equal rights bills and amendments. Also included are notes made on bills from other state legislatures.

#### ***Arrangement***

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Folder #	Folder Title	Date
12	Massachusetts bills and amendments	2011-2016
13	Bills from other states	2016

### **Series V: *City ordinances, 1997-2014***

**Scope and Content**

This series includes Massachusetts city ordinances related to human rights and nondiscrimination.

**Arrangement**

Materials are arranged in their original order.

Folder #	Folder Title	Date
14	Massachusetts city ordinances	1997-2014

**Series VI: Research Materials, 2009-2016****Scope and Content**

This series includes materials given by local organizations, court decisions on public accommodation law, documents sent to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary relating to the bill, and pamphlets and publications on LGBT issues.

**Arrangement**

Processor arranged series alphabetically by subject.

Folder #	Folder Title	Date
15	Boston Pride	2016
16	Massachusetts Court Decisions	2015; undated
17	Freedom Massachusetts	2015-2016; undated
18	Joint Committee on the Judiciary	2015-2016; undated
19	LGBT Aging Commission	2015-2016
20	Massachusetts Family Institute	2013-2015; undated
21	Massachusetts State laws	2015-2016; undated
22	PFLAG (Formerly Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)	Undated
23	Pamphlets from LGBT organizations	2011; undated
24	Fenway Health publications	2014

25	Research materials (miscellany; includes business cards, fact sheets, testimony and open letters)	2011-2016; undated
26	State guidelines on nondiscrimination	undated
27	Transgender Equal Rights Coalition	2009; 2011; 2015; undated