

Covid-19 Legislation filed at of 3/18/2020

SB2599 - An Act authorizing waiver of the one week waiting period for unemployment benefits

Sponsor

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Summary

Instructs the director of unemployment assistance to waive the one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits claims by individuals separated from work due or related to the 2019 novel Coronavirus or "COVID-19" outbreak, or the effects of the Governor's March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.(Reported by Senate Ways & Means in part of SB2598. The new text is identical to the original version filed by Governor Baker.)

Last Action

03/18/2020 G - Laid before the Governor

Actions

03/18/2020 S - Reported by committee in part of SB2598View comparison to prior version 03/18/2020 S - Ordered to a third reading 03/18/2020 S - Passed to be engrossed 03/18/2020 H - Received in the House 03/18/2020 H - Ordered to a third reading 03/18/2020 H - Passed to be engrossed 03/18/2020 H - Emergency preamble adopted (7/0) 03/18/2020 S - Emergency preamble adopted (3/0) 03/18/2020 H - Enacted in the House 03/18/2020 S - Enacted in the Senate 03/18/2020 G - Laid before the Governor

SB2598 (SD2874) - An Act authorizing waiver of the one week waiting period for unemployment benefits

Sponsor

Governor

Summary

Instructs the director of unemployment assistance to waive the one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits claims by individuals separated from work due or related to the 2019 novel Coronavirus or "COVID-19" outbreak, or the effects of the Governor's March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

Last Action

03/18/2020 S - Reported by committee in part - see SB2599View comparison to prior version

Actions

03/16/2020 S - Filed in the Senate 03/16/2020 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Ways and Means 03/18/2020 S - Reported by committee in part - see SB2599View comparison to prior version

HB4572 (HD4942) - An Act to address challenges in town governance resulting from COVID-19

Sponsor

Governor

Summary

Grants municipalities greater flexibility to conduct business during the ongoing public health emergency; allows for town meetings to be postponed for 30 days, including past a statutory cut-off of June 30th; authorizes funding for essential operations of a town if it fails to approve a budget by June 30th due to the emergency; authorizes a lower town meeting quorum requirement during the emergency. NOTE: This legislation includes an emergency preamble, allowing it to take immediate effect upon passage.

Last Action

03/17/2020 H - Hearing Scheduled 03/19/2020 12:01 PM - Public Hearing, 24 Beacon Street Room 540, Boston, MA 02133

Actions

03/16/2020 H - Filed in the House 03/16/2020 H - Referred to Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government 03/16/2020 S - Concurred in committee referral 03/17/2020 H - Hearing Scheduled 03/19/2020 12:01 PM - Public Hearing, 24 Beacon Street Room 540, Boston, MA 02133

HD4926 - An Act establishing the COVID-19 Quarantine Assistance Fund

Sponsor

Rep. William Smitty Pignatelli (D)

Summary

Establishes and regulates the funding and use of the COVID-19 Quarantine Assistance Fund, to be administered by the secretary of health and human services; requires use of the fund for grants to residents of the commonwealth who become unable to earn wages due to a COVID-19 infection, quarantine or isolation period. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

Last Action

03/11/2020 H - Filed in the House

Actions

03/11/2020 H - Filed in the House

HD4935 - An Act providing for a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the COVID19 emergency

Sponsor

Rep. Mike Connolly (D)

Summary

Prohibits any court with competent jurisdiction over cases related to summary process or other forms of eviction, from entering any order allowing possession of a residential dwelling until the rescission until of the Governor's emergency declaration, executive order 591; further prohibits courts from accepting any filing seeking such possession; requires courts to grant applications for a stay of execution or continuance of any current summary process case; suspends deadlines in any such cases; additionally prohibits enforcement of any execution for possession in such cases. Prohibits any creditor, mortgagee, or other person having an estate in mortgaged land, or a person authorized to conduct a foreclosure sale from publishing notice of a foreclosure sale, exercising a foreclosure sale, or otherwise exercising a right of entry or summary process action after a foreclosure sale, until the rescission until of the Governor's emergency declaration, executive order 591.NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

Last Action

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

Actions

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

HD4937 - An Act establishing a COVID-19 economic stabilization emergency fund for host communities of institutions of higher education

Sponsor

Rep. Mindy Domb (D)

Summary

Establishes and regulates the use of the COVID-19 Economic Stabilization Emergency Fund; directs the executive office of housing and economic development to administer the fund to provide financial assistance to small businesses, non-profits and municipalities that host public and private institutions of higher education that have closed in response to the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak; allows use of the fund to cover loss of revenue, unexpected expenses, and loss of contributions, grants or other financial assistance; requires the transfer of \$125,000,000 to the fund. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon

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Last Action

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

Actions

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

HD4936 - An Act establishing a COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Public Higher Education Institutions

Sponsor

Rep. Mindy Domb (D)

Summary

Establishes and regulates the use of the COVID-19 Public Institutions of Higher Education Emergency Fund; directs the board of higher education to administer the fund to provide financial assistance to public institutions of higher education for loss of revenue, unexpected expenses, including increased safety and security, implementation of virtual classes and loss of contributions, grants or financial assistance; allows use of the fund to cover employees for lost wages, expanded sick time costs and other costs; requires the transfer of \$125,000,000 to the fund. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

Last Action

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

Actions

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

HD4934 - An Act providing certain state employees sick leave for COVID-19 related absences

Sponsor

Rep. James J. O'Day (D)

Summary

Entitles any state employee who is absent from work due to COVID-19 infection, quarantine or isolation, and who does not have sufficient earned sick leave time for the absence, to paid leave for the duration of their COVID-19 related absence.

Last Action

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

Actions

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

SD2870 - An Act providing certain state employees sick leave for COVID-19 related absences

Sponsor

Sen. Paul Feeney (D)

Summary

Entitles any state employee who is absent from work due to COVID-19 infection, quarantine or isolation, and who does not have sufficient earned sick leave time for the absence, to paid leave for the duration of their COVID-19 related absence.

Last Action

03/13/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

Actions

03/13/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

HD4939 - An Act establishing a COVID-19 emergency fund for regional transportation authorities

Sponsor

Rep. Mindy Domb (D)

Summary

Establishes and regulates the use of the COVID-19 Regional Transport Authority Emergency Fund; directs the executive office of transportation and public works to administer the fund to provide financial assistance to regional transit authorities in response to the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak; allows use of the fund to cover loss of revenue, unexpected expenses, including increased staffing, sanitization of vehicles, joint procurements, and loss of contributions, grants or other financial assistance; requires the transfer of \$50,000,000 to the fund. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

Last Action

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

Actions

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

HD4945 - An Act providing for emergency cash assistance in response to COVID-19

Sponsor

Rep. Tami Gouveia (D)

Summary

Directs the department of revenue to send all qualifying households a check for \$1,000 within 30 days of passage; defines qualifying households as those with 1 to 2 person households earning up to \$84,000 annually or; 3 person households earning up to \$105,000 annually or; 4 or more person households earning up to \$131,000 annually; limits qualified households to those with Massachusetts residents who filed 2018 Massachusetts income tax returns; entitles households that did not file 2018 income tax returns to the stimulus payment if they can demonstrate household income and size; provides for an additional \$500 payment per dependent. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

Last Action

03/16/2020 H - Filed in the House

Actions

03/16/2020 H - Filed in the House

HD4949 - An Act providing worker compensation protection to emergency response and medical personnel related to COVID-19 infection

Sponsor

Rep. Chris Hendricks (D)

Summary

Establishes a new GL 152:7H (Workers' Compensation) to streamline workers' compensation claims for EMTs and emergency room or urgent care personnel who have been diagnosed with COVID-19; requires that the diagnosis be taken as evidence that the employee was performing their regular duties when they contracted the virus, that they are eligible for workers' compensation, and that sufficient notice of the injury has been givenNOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

Last Action

03/17/2020 H - Filed in the House

Actions

03/17/2020 H - Filed in the House

HD4950 - An Act providing emergency access to equity and justice for all in response to COVID-19

Sponsor

Rep. Liz Miranda (D)

Summary

Directs the department of revenue to establish an online equity and justice (EAJ) portal, where Massachusetts residents can register for COVID-19 EAJ assistance; details information to be collected during registration, including validating their residency since January 1, 2020; requires the portal to be available in various languages; additionally directs DOR to send a check of \$1,000 to each registrant, plus \$750 per dependent; directs DOR to send additional checks every 30 days to registrants facing financial hardship with the various income levels relative to the 2020 federal poverty levels; requires continuation of such assistance until all state and federal emergency statuses are lifted; prohibits use of EAJ income to determine eligibility for other forms of public assistance; qualifies those without affordable health care for MassHealth. Additionally directs the Massachusetts office of business development to develop the small business recovery grant fund; requires use of the fund to provide emergency funds in amounts up to \$50,000 to small Massachusetts-based businesses impacted by COVID-19; limits eligible companies to those with up to 26 full time and part-time employees. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

Last Action

03/17/2020 H - Filed in the House

Actions

03/17/2020 H - Filed in the House
