

**March 27, 2020**

## **Covid-19 Legislation**

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### **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.)

#### **Status**

Signed by the Governor

#### **Last Action**

03/18/2020 G - Signed by 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 03/18/2020 G - Signed by the Governor

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### **SB2608 - An Act granting authority to postpone 2020 municipal elections in the commonwealth and increase voting options in response to the declaration of emergency to respond to COVID-19**

#### **Sponsor**

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

#### **Summary**



**Last Action**

03/23/2020 H - Ordered to a third reading

**Actions**

03/23/2020 H - New draft of HB4572View comparison to prior version 03/23/2020 H - Ordered to a third reading

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## **HB4586 (HD4974) - An Act to further address challenges faced by municipalities, school districts and state authorities resulting from COVID-19**

**Sponsor**

Governor

**Summary**

Submits Governor Baker's additional recommendations to provide flexibility in addressing challenges related to the COVID-19 epidemic; specifically, the bill extends the deadline for completion of the MBTA budget, allows for electronic signatures on criminal warrants, modifies local permitting timelines and processes, allows continued employment of retired public employees, modifies collection of local taxes and fees, modifies and waives elementary and secondary education student competency and district performance requirements, authorizes suspension of local school budgeting processes, and allows sale of off-premises alcohol consumption by restaurants. To view additional details, click to see our section-by-section summary. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

**Status**

Ways & Means

**Last Action**

03/26/2020 H - Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means

**Actions**

03/24/2020 H - Filed in the House 03/26/2020 H - Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means

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## **HD4927 - An Act relative to emergency hazard health duty**

**Sponsor**

Rep. James Arciero (D)

**Summary**

Establishes a presumption that any public safety officials who contract, have symptoms of or who otherwise become affected with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) that results in hospitalization, quarantine, or self-quarantined measures, contracted their medical condition or incapacity to work in

the line of duty; classifies the condition as work-related; defines public safety officials as including any individuals employed as police, fire personnel, correction officers, dispatchers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, nursing professionals, and all individuals employed and considered as 1st responders; defines such time away from duty as on duty time; prohibits requiring use of  sick time, vacation time, personal time or any other contractual time-off.

**Status**

Public Service

**Last Action**

03/26/2020 H - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Service

**Actions**

03/11/2020 H - Filed in the House 03/19/2020 H - Referred to House Committee on Rules 03/26/2020 H - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Service

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## **SB2602 (SD2865) - An Act relative to emergency hazard health duty**

**Sponsor**

Sen. Michael O. Moore (D)

**Summary**

Establishes a presumption that any public safety officials who contract, have symptoms of or who otherwise become affected with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) that results in hospitalization, quarantine, or self-quarantined measures, contracted their medical condition or incapacity to work in the line of duty; classifies the condition as work-related; defines public safety officials as including any individuals employed as police, fire personnel, correction officers, dispatchers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, nursing professionals, and all individuals employed and considered as 1st responders; defines such time away from duty as on duty time; prohibits requiring use of  sick time, vacation time, personal time or any other contractual time-off.&nbsp;NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

**Status**

Public Safety and Homeland Security

**Last Action**

03/18/2020 H - Concurred in committee referral

**Actions**

03/11/2020 S - Filed in the Senate 03/17/2020 S - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security 03/18/2020 H - Concurred in committee referral

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## **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.&nbsp;

**Status**

Ways & Means

**Last Action**

03/26/2020 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Actions**

03/13/2020 S - Filed in the Senate 03/19/2020 S - Referred to Joint Committee on Rules 03/26/2020 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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## **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.

**Status**

Ways & Means

**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

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## 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.&nbsp;&nbsp; NOTE: This legislation includes an emergency preamble, allowing it to take immediate effect upon passage.&nbsp;&nbsp; 

### Status

Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee

### Last Action

03/23/2020 H - New draft substituted - see HB4580View comparison to substituted version

### 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 0213303/23/2020 H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government 03/23/2020 H - New draft substituted - see HB4580View comparison to substituted version

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## HD4971 - An Act to expand options for local restaurants during the COVID-19 emergency

### Sponsor

Rep. Kenneth I. Gordon (D)

### Summary

Authorizes all holders of licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (restaurants, bars, etc.) to begin selling alcohol via delivery or curbside pickup; places various restrictions on the delivery of alcoholic beverages in order to ensure that the alcoholic beverages cannot be readily accessed while driving or sold to someone under the age of 21; limits sales to 1.5 liters of wine, 72 ounces of malt beverages, and 10 ounces of spirits per customer per day; requires wines and spirits to be sold in their original sealed containers, and spirits to be sold in a tamper proof container; caps the price at which alcoholic beverages can be sold in this manner, allowing existing inventory to be sold at the listed menu price, and requiring any inventory acquired after March 15th to be sold at cost; authorizes sales of alcoholic beverages between these licensees (e.g., one restaurant selling its inventory to another); provides for this act to take effect immediately, and expire along with

the expiration of either the COVID-19 state of emergency, or the prohibition of on-premises food or drink consumption, whichever comes first.&nbsp;

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/23/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/23/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **SB2609 (SD2881) - Special elections**

**Sponsor**

Sen. Karen E. Spilka (D)

**Summary**

Changes the date for the special elections in the two vacant senate districts from March 31, 2020 to May 19, 2020. See previous orders, SB2434 and SB2436.&nbsp;

**Status**

Filed in the Senate

**Last Action**

03/23/2020 S - Order adopted

**Actions**

03/23/2020 S - Filed in the Senate 03/23/2020 S - Order adopted

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## **SD2886 - An Act providing emergency assistance for municipal public safety overtime**

**Sponsor**

Sen. Michael O. Moore (D)

**Summary**

Directs the executive office of public safety and security to establish a grant program, assist cities and towns in addressing overtime costs of municipal police officers, municipal law enforcement personnel with arrest powers, municipal personnel with authority to enforce public health regulations, members of the fire department, and emergency medical technicians during the COVID-19 state of emergency.&nbsp;



**Status**

Filed in the Senate

**Last Action**

03/24/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

**Actions**

03/24/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

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## **SD2882 - An Act relative to remote notarization during COVID-19 state of emergency**

**Sponsor**

Sen. Bruce E. Tarr (R)

**Summary**

Authorizes attorney and paralegal notaries to perform an acknowledgement, affirmation, or other notarial act using real time video conferencing for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency; sets out the procedures and various restrictions for remote notarization, including steps to ensure proper identification of parties involved and their presence in Massachusetts.&nbsp;

**Status**

Filed in the Senate

**Last Action**

03/24/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

**Actions**

03/24/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

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## **SD2888 - An Act concerning business interruption insurance**

**Sponsor**

Sen. James B. Eldridge (D)

**Summary**

Requires all insurance policies insuring against loss or damage to property, the loss of use and occupancy and business interruption in force in the commonwealth, to cover any losses resulting from business interruption directly or indirectly due to the global pandemic known as COVID-19; prohibits denial of a claim due to the fact that COVID-19 is a virus and/or there is no physical property damage; requires coverage to continue until executive order 591 is rescinded by the Governor. Authorizes and regulates reimbursement of insurers for such business loss payments to insureds; directs the commissioner of insurance to impose and collect assessments against licensed insurers that provide

business interruption coverage, for the purpose of funding insurance reimbursement during the COVID-19 public health emergency.&nbsp;NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

#### **Status**

Filed in the Senate

#### **Last Action**

03/24/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

#### **Actions**

03/24/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

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## **HD4978 - An Act providing for cash assistance to certain persons over 65 years of age who stopped working as a result of COVID-19 or stay-at-home advisory (The CARE Act)**

#### **Sponsor**

Rep. Nika Elugardo (D)

#### **Summary**

Establishes the CARE Fund to support those over the age of 65 who are unable to work during the ongoing COVID-19 emergency; directs the comptroller to transfer \$15 million to the fund; allows applicants to receive benefits from this fund if they meet the following requirements: stopped working due to COVID-19, are 65 or older, are ineligible for unemployment benefits, and have an underlying condition increasing their vulnerability to COVID-19; sets the benefit at a monthly payment of \$1,500, with possible need based increases.NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

#### **Status**

Filed in the House

#### **Last Action**

03/24/2020 H - Filed in the House

#### **Actions**

03/24/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **HD4977 - An Act providing emergency assistance for municipal public safety overtime**

#### **Sponsor**

Rep. Hannah Kane (R)

### **Summary**

Directs the executive office of public safety and security to establish a grant program, assist cities and towns in addressing overtime costs of municipal police officers, municipal law enforcement personnel with arrest powers, municipal personnel with authority to enforce public health regulations, members of the fire department, and emergency medical technicians during the COVID-19 state of emergency.&nbsp;

### **Status**

Filed in the House

### **Last Action**

03/24/2020 H - Filed in the House

### **Actions**

03/24/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **HD4975 - An Act establishing a COVID-19 food service and hospitality worker relief fund.**

### **Sponsor**

Rep. William Smitty Pignatelli (D)

### **Summary**

Establishes the COVID-19 Food Service and Hospitality Worker Relief Emergency Fund, administered by the executive office of labor and workforce development, for the purpose of providing financial assistance to individuals employed in the food service and hospitality industries, that have been laid off or are otherwise experiencing financial distress due to the COVID-19 state of emergency; directs the comptroller to transfer \$75,000,000 to such fund. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

### **Status**

Filed in the House

### **Last Action**

03/24/2020 H - Filed in the House

### **Actions**

03/24/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **HD4980 - An Act providing out-of-state medical licensing reciprocity during the COVID-19 emergency**

### **Sponsor**

Rep. Patrick Kearney (D)

### **Summary**

Allows medical personnel with out of state licensure to practice in Massachusetts as part of the response to COVID-19 for the duration of the state of emergency, plus an additional 30 days; grants the Commissioner of Public Health the authority to approve this temporary licensure.NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

### **Status**

Filed in the House

### **Last Action**

03/25/2020 H - Filed in the House

### **Actions**

03/25/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **HD4981 - An Act relating to ballot nominations during the state of emergency due to COVID-19**

### **Sponsor**

Rep. Patrick Kearney (D)

### **Summary**

Directs the Secretary of the Commonwealth to waive two-thirds of the signature requirements for nominations in all state elections (e.g., signature requirements for state representatives would be reduced from 150 to 50); provides for these lowered signature requirements to expire after the 2020 elections.NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

### **Status**

Filed in the House

### **Last Action**

03/25/2020 H - Filed in the House

### **Actions**

03/25/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **SD2889 - An Act establishing a COVID-19 homeowner protection act**

### **Sponsor**

Sen. Michael O. Moore (D)

### **Summary**

Amends GL 244:35A (Right of residential real property mortgagor to cure a default) to add several protections for homeowners during the ongoing COVID-19 emergency; bars lenders from initiating foreclosure proceedings for the duration of the state of emergency, plus an additional 90 days; allows homeowners experiencing financial hardship to forbear mortgage payments for 180 days; bars lenders from reporting this forbearance as a late payment to credit rating agencies, or otherwise penalizing homeowners who take advantage of this provision; requires lenders to work with homeowners to resume payments; provides for these provisions to expire 180 days after the end of the state of emergency.&nbsp;

### **Status**

Filed in the Senate

### **Last Action**

03/25/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

### **Actions**

03/25/2020 S - Filed in the Senate

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## **HD4986 - An Act relative to Small Churches economic stimulus package in Gateway cities during the COVID-19 pandemic**

### **Sponsor**

Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D)

### **Summary**

Establishes a grant program for small community churches in Gateway Cities with fewer than 100 members; awards eligible churches \$10,000 in order to establish an online platform for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Status**

Filed in the House

### **Last Action**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

### **Actions**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **HD4985 - An Act relative to a Micro-Business stimulus package COVID-19 pandemic**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D)

**Summary**

Establishes a grant program for micro-businesses which have under 5 employees and generated under \$200,000 in revenue in 2018; awards eligible businesses \$15,000 and requires 75% of the grant to be spent on employee compensation.

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## HD4984 - An Act relative to internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Sponsor**

Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D)

**Summary**

Requires internet service providers in Massachusetts to provide the highest bandwidth possible for residential customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.&nbsp;

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## HD4987 - An Act providing emergency assistance to gateway cities for temporary homeless shelters

**Sponsor**

Rep. Daniel Donahue (D)

### **Summary**

Directs the department of housing and community development to establish and regulate implementation of a grant program to fund the operation of temporary shelters for homeless individuals in Gateway Cities during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

### **Status**

Filed in the House

### **Last Action**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

### **Actions**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **HD4990 - An Act providing state tax filing relief due to COVID-19**

### **Sponsor**

Rep. Carmine Gentile (D)

### **Summary**

Extends the filing deadline for state income tax returns until July 15, 2020, without interest or penalty. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

### **Status**

Filed in the House

### **Last Action**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

### **Actions**

03/26/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **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.

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/11/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/11/2020 H - Filed in the House

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**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 passage. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

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**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.

### **Status**

Filed in the House

### **Last Action**

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

### **Actions**

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **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.&nbsp;

### **Status**

Filed in the House

### **Last Action**

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

### **Actions**

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **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.

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/13/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## 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.&nbsp;&nbsp;  NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/16/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/16/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## 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.

### Status

Filed in the House

### Last Action

03/17/2020 H - Filed in the House

### Actions

03/17/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## 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.&nbsp;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.&nbsp;NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/17/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/17/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **HD4956 - An Act providing for a Rent Increase Freeze in response to COVID-19**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D)

**Summary**

Temporarily suspends portions of the Rent Control Prohibition Act (GL 40P) and directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to enforce a rent freeze for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency, and an additional 30 days; additionally authorizes municipalities to enforce this rent freeze.NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/18/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/18/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **HD4955 - An Act providing for a MassHealth expansion in response to COVID-19**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D)

**Summary**

Amends GL 118E:9A (MassHealth) to expand access to MassHealth for all those who qualify for unemployment benefits, and all who are directly impacted by the COVID-19 state of



Establishes the COVID-19 Local Food Access Emergency Fund, administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance for the purpose of financially supporting local food pantries; directs the comptroller to transfer \$50 million to the fund.&nbsp;

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/20/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/20/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## HD4964 - An Act relative to acting mayors during COVID-19 State of Emergency

**Sponsor**

Rep. Jonathan D. Zlotnik (D)

**Summary**

Ensures that any acting mayors possess the full breadth of mayoral powers for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency, including to make appointments.&nbsp;

**Status**

Filed in the House

**Last Action**

03/20/2020 H - Filed in the House

**Actions**

03/20/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## HD4963 - An Act regarding Decarceration and COVID-19

**Sponsor**

Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D)

**Summary**

Creates a new GL 276:99H&nbsp;to discourage the incarceration of nonviolent offenders or vulnerable detainees during the ongoing public health crisis; requires Pretrial Services, Sheriffs overseeing a House of Correction, and the Department of Correction to review their cases and release individuals who pose no immediate threat to the community, are being charged with simple possession of controlled substances, are over fifty years old, are part of a population particularly

vulnerable to COVID-19, are within 6 months of completing their sentence, and those who are being detained due to inability to afford bail, or failure to pay fines and fees; allows exemptions for dangerousness; requires Sheriffs and DOC to submit a list of detainees who meet these qualifications, but who are not being released, to the Committee for Public Counsel Services so they can be assigned an attorney.&nbsp;Adds several new sections to GL 27 (Department of Correction) requiring the Parole Board to review the cases of each individual who is within six months of their initial parole eligibility date or who has reached their initial parole eligibility date, but was denied parole; requires the release of individuals who pose no immediate threat to the community, are incarcerated due to technical violations of parole, are within 6 months of their initial parole eligibility, and those who have been previously denied parole; requires the Parole Board to submit a list of detainees who meet these qualifications, but who are not being released, to the Committee for Public Counsel Services so they can be assigned an attorney. Requires Sheriffs and DOC to work with public health officials to ensure the health and safety of inmates during the COVID-19 pandemic, including by minimizing the sharing of cells, ensuring access to soap and disinfectant, and ensuring adequate quarantine capacity.&nbsp;NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

#### **Status**

Filed in the House

#### **Last Action**

03/20/2020 H - Filed in the House

#### **Actions**

03/20/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## **HD4961 - An Act suspending student loan debt due to the COVID-19 emergency**

#### **Sponsor**

Rep. Mindy Domb (D)

#### **Summary**

Suspends payments of student loans owed to state agencies, pursuant to EO 519 for 360 days after the expiration of the order; converts all special obligations used to provide student loans into general obligations of the Commonwealth. NOTE: Designated an emergency law, allowing for it to take immediate effect upon passage.

#### **Status**

Filed in the House

#### **Last Action**

03/20/2020 H - Filed in the House

#### **Actions**

03/20/2020 H - Filed in the House

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## HD4970 - An Act relative to state employees performing core functions

### Sponsor

Rep. Tackey Chan (D)

### Summary

Requires time and a half compensation for public employees who are directed to report to work outside their homes during the COVID-19 state of emergency; allows eligible employees to opt to receive compensatory leave instead of additional pay.&nbsp;

### Status

Filed in the House

### Last Action

03/23/2020 H - Filed in the House

### Actions

03/23/2020 H - Filed in the House

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