

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4732**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Mindy Domb***

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*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 COVID-19 Local Food Access Emergency Fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>

<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sабadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Thomas P. Walsh</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>

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By Ms. Domb of Amherst, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Mindy Domb and others that the Department of Transitional Assistance be authorized to administer a \$50,000,000 local food access emergency fund to provide financial assistance to food pantries severely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing a COVID-19 Local Food Access Emergency Fund.

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

1           SECTION 1. (a) There shall be established and set upon the books of the commonwealth  
2 a separate fund to be known as the COVID-19 Local Food Access Emergency Fund to be  
3 administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance.

4           (b) The purpose of the Fund shall be for financial assistance in the form of grants to food  
5 pantries within the commonwealth who have been severely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.  
6 Such financial assistance shall include, but not be limited to, grants for: (i) staffing; (ii)  
7 procurement; (iii) sourcing; (iv) purchases of food or other items for distribution; (v) unexpected  
8 expenses as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

9           (c) There shall be credited to the Fund all amounts that are, by law, transferred or  
10 authorized to be transferred thereto or directed to be deposited therein, and all amounts received  
11 as gifts, grants, or contributions for the purposes of the Fund. Amounts credited to the Fund shall

12 not be subject to further appropriation and any money remaining in the Fund at the end of a fiscal  
13 year shall not revert to the General Fund.

14 (d) For the purposes of this section the term “food pantry”, shall mean a food distribution  
15 center that is either registered as a 501 (c ) (3) entity or is a program of a 501 (c) (3) entity in  
16 partnership with a local Food Bank.

17 SECTION 2. On the effective date of this act, the comptroller shall transfer no less than  
18 \$50,000,000 from the General Fund to the COVID-19 Local Food Access Emergency Fund  
19 established in section 1 for the purposes of carrying out this act.