

HOUSE No. 72

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Blais and Joanne M. Comerford

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 resolve:

Resolve establishing the Massachusetts Government Assistance task force to address the statewide impacts of the 2018-2019 federal government shutdown.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>

HOUSE No. 72

By Representative Blais of Sunderland and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 72) of Natalie M. Blais and Joanne M. Comerford for an investigation by a task force (including members of the General Court) to address the statewide impacts of the 2018-2019 federal government shutdown.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve establishing the Massachusetts Government Assistance task force to address the statewide impacts of the 2018-2019 federal government shutdown.

1 **Resolved**, that there be a bipartisan emergency response task force for the purpose of
2 proactively identifying ways in which the commonwealth can respond to its citizens and affected
3 communities during and immediately following the 2018-2019 federal government shutdown in
4 a way that provides financial support and government services for those affected by the
5 shutdown.

6 The task force shall convene within 5 business days upon approval of the resolve and
7 consist of 7 members: The governor or a designee currently employed by that office who shall
8 serve as chair; the attorney general or a designee currently employed by that office; a member of
9 the senate appointed by the senate president; a member of the house appointed by the speaker of
10 the house of representatives; a member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the
11 senate; a member of the house appointed by the minority leader of the house and the secretary of
12 administration and finance or his designee who is employed by that office. The task force shall
13 work in consultation with appropriate agency heads.

14 The task force shall analyze the short term and long term impacts of the 2018-2019
15 federal government shutdown. The task force shall issue a public report that includes but is not
16 limited to, an analysis of government programs impacted, how Massachusetts residents are
17 impacted, and the potential cost and economic impact to the commonwealth during a short term
18 and long term shut down.

19 The task force shall develop a rapid response plan for the commonwealth that prioritizes
20 continuation of services for its residents and communities. It shall also identify administrative
21 fixes, policy changes and legislative proposals for consideration to address both short term and
22 long term impacts; focusing foremost on the loss of revenue, impacted federal employees and
23 beneficiaries impacted by the loss of federal services.

24 A detailed impact report that includes action steps shall be made available to the public
25 on or before February 1, 2019. The task force may issue findings and suggest steps including
26 legislation at any time during its authority.

27 The task force shall dissolve exactly 30 days after the end of the 2018-2019 federal
28 government shutdown and shall issue prior to dissolve an economic impact to the
29 Commonwealth of the shutdown.