

SENATE No. 522

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

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 to provide immediate relief to small businesses on health care costs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>
<i>Thomas P. Kennedy</i>	
<i>Dennis A. Rosa</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	

SENATE No. 522

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 522) of Michael O. Moore, Michael R. Knapik, Anne M. Gobi, Thomas P. Kennedy and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide immediate relief to small business on health care costs. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to provide immediate relief to small businesses on health care costs.

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. It shall be the policy of the general court to impose a moratorium on the
2 enactment of any and all new mandated health benefit legislation until July 2, 2014.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 176Q of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official
4 Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end of Section 3 the following new paragraph:-

5 (u) to annually adjust the allowable amount of deductibles and co-insurance under
6 minimum creditable coverage as the term is defined in 956 CMR 5.03(2)(b) by the amount of
7 annual medical inflation as determined by the CMS Medicare Market Basket Price Index.

8 SECTION 3. Section 188 of Chapter 149 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
9 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding to paragraph (c) the following new subparagraph:-

10 (11) In calculating the fair share assessment, employees who have qualifying health
11 insurance coverage from a spouse, a parent, a veteran’s plan, Medicare, Medicaid, or a plan or

12 plans due to a disability or retirement shall not be included in the numerator or denominator for
13 purposes of determining whether an employer is a Contributing Employer as defined in 114.5
14 CMR 16.00.

15 SECTION 4. Chapter 151A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official
16 Edition, is hereby amended by repealing Section 14G.

17 SECTION 5. The Division of Unemployment Assistance, in conjunction with the
18 Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority and the Division of Medical Assistance
19 shall make recommendations to the legislature by June 30, 2011 on how best to provide health
20 insurance to unemployed residents of the Commonwealth who qualify for benefits under Chapter
21 151A of the general laws, by expanding MassHealth programs or the Connector's existing
22 programs, provided that such programs will be paid for from the General Funds of the
23 Commonwealth and not through a special assessment on employers and provided further such
24 program shall maximize federal reimbursement to the extent possible.

25 SECTION 6. Section 304 of Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004, requiring the Executive
26 Office of Health and Human Services to produce a list of employers who have 50 or more
27 employees using public health assistance each year, is hereby repealed.