

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2550**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Elizabeth A. Malia***

*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 relieving mortgage debt.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2019</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2550**

By Ms. Malia of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2550) of Elizabeth A. Malia and others relative to treatment of debt on principal residences for tax purposes. Revenue.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3337 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act relieving mortgage debt.

*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. Section 2 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subclause:-

3 (R) To the extent not otherwise excluded from gross income, in whole or in part, income  
4 attributable to the discharge of a valid debt on a principal residence, including debt reduced  
5 through mortgage restructuring, as well as mortgage debt forgiven in connection with a  
6 foreclosure, subject to the following conditions and limitations:

7 (i) No more than \$2,000,000 of forgiven debt is eligible for the exclusion under this  
8 section, or \$1,000,000 in the case of married filing separately for the purposes of federal taxes.

9 (ii) This section shall only apply to “acquisition indebtedness” as defined in section  
10 163(h)(3)(B) of the Code.

11 (iii) The amount excluded from gross income by reason of this section shall be applied to  
12 reduce, but not below zero, the Massachusetts basis of the principal residence of the taxpayer.

13 (iv) This section shall not apply to the discharge of a loan if the discharge is on account  
14 of services performed for the lender or any other factor not directly related to a decline in the  
15 value of the residence or to the financial condition of the taxpayer.

16 (v) If any loan is discharged, in whole or in part, and only a portion of such loan qualifies  
17 under this section, this section shall apply only to so much of the amount discharged as exceeds  
18 the amount of the loan, as determined immediately before such discharge, which does not  
19 qualify. The principal residence exclusion shall take precedence over an insolvency exclusion  
20 unless elected otherwise.

21 (vi) For the purposes of this section, the term “principal residence” shall have the same  
22 meaning as in section 121 of the Code.

23 SECTION 2. This Act shall apply to discharges of indebtedness on or after January 1,  
24 2013.

25 SECTION 3. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations to effectuate this provision.

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