

HOUSE No. 4705

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carlos González

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 providing aid to nonprofit and charitable organizations in Gateway cities for the provision of services during the COVID-19 outbreak.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>4/14/2020</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>4/14/2020</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/15/2020</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>4/15/2020</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>4/15/2020</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>4/15/2020</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>4/20/2020</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>4/20/2020</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/20/2020</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>4/21/2020</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>4/21/2020</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>4/21/2020</i>
<i>James T. Welch</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>4/21/2020</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>4/21/2020</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>	<i>4/21/2020</i>
<i>RoseLee Vincent</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/21/2020</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>4/21/2020</i>

Brendan P. Crighton

Third Essex

4/21/2020

Nick Collins

First Suffolk

4/22/2020

HOUSE No. 4705

By Mr. González of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Carlos González and others relative to providing aid to nonprofit and charitable organizations in gateway cities for the provision of services during the COVID-19 outbreak. Community Development and Small Businesses.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act providing aid to nonprofit and charitable organizations in Gateway cities for the provision of services during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for an online platform for nonprofit and charitable organizations in Gateway cities within the commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the
2 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

3 “Fund”, the COVID-19 Nonprofit Digital Assistance Fund established in subsection (b)

4 “Small nonprofit organization”, a nonprofit or charitable organization or an individual
5 branch or division of a nonprofit or charitable organization, including, but not limited to, a
6 church, synagogue, mosque or other house of worship that is: (i) exempt from taxation under
7 section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; (iii) employs fewer than 10 individuals; and (iv)
8 located in a gateway municipality as defined in section 3A of chapter 23A of the General Laws.

9 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
10 fund to be known as the COVID-19 Nonprofit Digital Assistance Fund to be administered by the
11 executive office of housing and economic development.

12

13 (c) The fund shall be used to promote and protect the public health and safety of the
14 communities of the commonwealth during the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also
15 known as COVID-19, and the governor's March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency, by
16 providing financial assistance in the form of grants to small nonprofit organizations lacking
17 digital infrastructure so they may maintain social distancing and best practices for public health
18 and safety by operating and serving their community remotely using digital technology. Each
19 grant provided to a small nonprofit organization under this section shall be of an amount that is
20 not more than \$10,000. A small nonprofit organization receiving a grant pursuant to this section
21 shall use the grant funds solely to establish an online platform to provide services,
22 communication and support to the community to ensure that recipients of the services provided
23 by the small nonprofit organization and employees and volunteers of the small nonprofit
24 organization maintain proper social distancing during the governor's March 10, 2020 declaration
25 of a state of emergency and the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-
26 19.

27 (d) There shall be credited to the fund all amounts that are, by law, transferred or
28 authorized to be transferred thereto or directed to be deposited therein, and all amounts received
29 as gifts, grants, or contributions for the purposes of the fund. Amounts credited to the fund shall

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

32 (e) The executive office of housing and economic development shall promulgate
33 regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including, but not limited to,
34 regulations pertaining to grant application and disbursement procedures.

35 SECTION 2. On the effective date of this act, the comptroller shall transfer \$5,000,000
36 from the General Fund to the COVID-19 Nonprofit Digital Assistance Fund established in
37 section 1 for the purposes of carrying out section 1.