

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4718**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Paul W. Mark***

*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 for a rent increase freeze in response to COVID-19.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>3/18/2020</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>3/20/2020</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/18/2020</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/19/2020</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>3/19/2020</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2020</i>
<i>Maria Duaiame Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2020</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2020</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2020</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>3/19/2020</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>3/19/2020</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/20/2020</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>3/20/2020</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/20/2020</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>3/20/2020</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>3/20/2020</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>3/20/2020</i>

<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/20/2020</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/23/2020</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>3/23/2020</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>3/23/2020</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>3/25/2020</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/25/2020</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/25/2020</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/25/2020</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>3/25/2020</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>3/25/2020</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>3/26/2020</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>3/26/2020</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>3/26/2020</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4718**

---

By Representatives Sabadosa of Northampton and Mark of Peru, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa, Paul W. Mark and others relative to rent freeze and rent control during the state and federal state of emergency declarations of March, 2020. Housing.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act providing for a rent increase freeze in response to COVID-19.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to ensure residents of the Commonwealth are able to remain safely housed during the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, safety, health and 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-Chapter 40P of the General Laws is hereby suspended in Sections 2, 3, and  
2           4 for the duration and 30 days following the COVID-19 state and federal state of emergency  
3           declarations of March, 2020.

4           SECTION 2-Chapter 40P of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
5           following section:-

6           Section 6. (a) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall be  
7           empowered to issue, maintain, and enforce a rent freeze and/or rent control within the  
8           Commonwealth for the duration and 30 days following the COVID-19 state and federal state of  
9           emergency declarations of March, 2020.

10           (b) A city or town may enact, maintain, or enforce rent freezes and/or rent control for the  
11 duration and 30 days following the COVID-19 state and federal state of emergency declarations  
12 of March, 2020.