

HOUSE No. 4757

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



House of Representatives, May 28, 2020.

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

1 *Ordered*, on March 10, 2020, pursuant to Executive Order No. 591, the Governor
2 declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak; and
3 Whereas, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued COVID-19 Order No. 13, Assuring Continued
4 Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Certain Workplaces, and
5 Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People ordering all non-essential workplaces and
6 facilities closed and prohibiting public and private gatherings of more than 10 people; and
7 Whereas, on March 27, 2020 the President of the United States declared that beginning on
8 January 20, 2020 and continuing a major disaster exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
9 and ordered Federal assistance to supplement Commonwealth, tribal, and local recovery efforts
10 in areas of the Commonwealth affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and Whereas, on March 31,
11 2020, April 28, 2020, and May 15, 2020, the Governor issued COVID-19 Orders No. 21, 30, and
12 32, respectively, which extended the period in which COVID-19 Order No. 13 would continue to

13 restrict the operation of businesses and organizations that do not provide COVID-19 Essential
14 Services; and Whereas, on May 18, 2020, the Governor issued COVID-19 Order No. 33,
15 Implementing a Phased Reopening of Workplaces and Imposing Workplace Safety Measures to
16 Address COVID-19, allowing some non-essential business to operate with workplace safety
17 rules and restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and Whereas, COVID-19 Order No.
18 33 is the first of a 4-phase process to reopen the Massachusetts economy; and

19 Whereas, the required closures, workplace safety rules and restrictions, while necessary for the
20 public safety and welfare of citizens of the Commonwealth, are having significant widespread
21 economic impacts on Massachusetts businesses and workers; and Whereas, it is essential that
22 there is proper oversight by the House to ensure that any public funds or other methods of
23 intervention are being applied effectively and appropriately for the short-term and long-term
24 benefit of the citizens of the Commonwealth; now therefore be it Ordered, That the House
25 establish a temporary special standing committee on Covid-19 Economic Response and
26 Recovery Efforts, hereinafter the committee. Said committee shall, without limitation: engage in
27 an on-going review and oversight of federal and state economic response and recovery efforts in
28 the Commonwealth; coordinate efforts with the executive branch to maximize federal assistance
29 for the Commonwealth; and review current laws, rules, regulations and policies in order to make
30 recommendations that will allow the Commonwealth to mitigate economic hardship, minimize
31 unemployment and job loss, stabilize small business ownership, access additional funding or to
32 otherwise stimulate the economy; and be it further Ordered, That, the committee shall coordinate
33 efforts to the extent feasible with the House Committee on Ways and Means to maintain the
34 Commonwealth's commitment to sound fiscal practices and a balanced budget while also
35 working collaboratively with the executive branch to maximize effectiveness of all economic

36 stimulus and recovery efforts; and it is further Ordered, That the committee may hold remote or
37 virtual hearings and may accept testimony; and be it further Ordered, That, the committee shall
38 report back periodically to the House; and be it further Ordered, That, counsel to the House
39 appointed pursuant to section 51 of chapter 3 of the General Laws and House Rule 13B shall
40 serve as counsel to the committee; and be it further Ordered, That, the committee shall consist of
41 15 members including the majority leader who shall serve as the chair; the assistant majority
42 leader who shall serve as the vice chair; the minority leader, or a member designated by the
43 minority leader; the chair of the committee on ways and means, or a member designated by the
44 chair of the committee on ways and means; the ranking member of the committee on ways and
45 means; the house vice chair of the joint committee on healthcare financing; the house chair of the
46 joint committee on revenue; the house chair of the joint committee on economic development
47 and emerging technologies; the house chair of the joint committee on community development
48 and small business; the house vice chair of the joint committee on labor and workforce
49 development; the house chair of the joint committee on financial services; the house chair of the
50 joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight; the house chair of the joint
51 committee on consumer protection and professional licensure; and 2 members of the house
52 appointed by the speaker.