

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alan Silvia

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 relative to anti-hoarding and return of bulk purchased items during the COVID-19 outbreak.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>4/6/2020</i>
<i>RoseLee Vincent</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/8/2020</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>4/8/2020</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>4/9/2020</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>4/13/2020</i>

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Silvia of Fall River, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Alan Silvia and others relative to anti-hoarding and return of bulk items purchased during the COVID-19 outbreak. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to anti-hoarding and return of bulk purchased items during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to prohibit the return of bulk purchased items during a public health emergency, 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 Chapter 270 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 30. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context
4 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

5 “Groceries and other household goods”, dairy products, meat and delicatessen products,
6 produce products, seafood products, carbonated beverages, coffee and other beverages, snack
7 foods, candy products, baked products, paper products, household cleaning and sanitization

8 items, health and beauty products, frozen foods, pet foods and supplies and any other edible
9 product not listed herein.

10 “Retail food store”, any retail establishment where groceries and other foodstuffs are
11 regularly and customarily sold for off-premises consumption.

12 (b) No person or retail food store shall accept the bulk return of any groceries and other
13 household goods purchased by a consumer during, and for 30 days following, a declared state of
14 emergency resulting from a pandemic or other public health emergency. A retail food store may
15 accept the bulk return of groceries and other household goods if it determines, in its sole
16 discretion, that the groceries and other household goods are unsafe for use or otherwise
17 defective. Any groceries and other household goods accepted for return pursuant to this section
18 shall not be offered for resale. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the return of a single item of
19 groceries and other household goods per visit to a retail food store.

20 (c) Any person or retail food store who violates this section shall be punished by a fine of
21 \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense and \$1,000 for a third or subsequent
22 offense.