

SENATE No. 2927

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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 additional unemployment benefits for the neediest recipients currently excluded from the Lost Wages Assistance program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Patricia D. Jehlen

Second Middlesex

Eric P. Lesser

First Hampden and Hampshire

SENATE No. 2927

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2927) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Patricia D. Jehlen and Eric P. Lesser for legislation relative to additional unemployment benefits for the neediest recipients currently excluded from the Lost Wages Assistance program. Labor and Workforce Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to additional unemployment benefits for the neediest recipients currently excluded from the Lost Wages Assistance program.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to establish a minimum unemployment weekly benefit amount during public health emergency, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health.

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. Notwithstanding any provision of General Laws chapter 151A to the
2 contrary, the department of unemployment assistance may for the period of the week ending
3 August 1, 2020 through the week ending September 5, 2020, redetermine the weekly benefit
4 amount for any claimants unemployed and eligible for unemployment insurance benefits in an
5 amount less than \$100 per week including the dependency allowance payable under said chapter
6 151A, section 29(c), and who are receiving unemployment benefits under said chapter 151A,
7 under the Federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, Section 2107 of the
8 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, Pub. L. 116-136, under
9 Federal Extended Benefits, Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970,

10 26 USC 3304 note, under Short Time Compensation, 26 USC 3306(v), or under the Trade
11 Readjustment Allowance, 19 USC sections 2291 – 2293.

12 The redetermination shall ensure that these claimants receive a weekly benefit amount of
13 \$100 per week during this period, which amount shall include said dependency allowance, in
14 order to meet the eligibility requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency grant
15 for lost wages assistance. Any increased balance owed to a claimant shall be paid to the claimant
16 as unemployment compensation.

17 A final report on the number of redeterminations, and the additional lost wages assistance
18 funds received for each week of the covered period shall be sent to the Joint Committee on Labor
19 and Workforce Development and the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.