

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Edward J. Kennedy

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 school transportation vendors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Edward J. Kennedy

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex

SENATE No.

By Mr. Kennedy, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Edward J. Kennedy for legislation relative to school transportation vendors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to school transportation vendors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to which is to provide forthwith for the distribution of necessities during the COVID-19 outbreak in the Commonwealth, 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 Until such time as the Governor orders that public and private schools in the
2 Commonwealth shall reopen, Section 56 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws is
3 hereby temporarily suspended in order that school districts may continue to honor existing
4 vendor contracts pertaining to school transportation, food services, and certain other contracts
5 that are deemed essential by the superintendent of schools in the school district; provided that
6 school transportation vendors and food service vendors maintain the same number of employees
7 that they employed prior to the public health crisis and state of emergency.

8 If the vendor has reduced the number of employees through furloughs or layoffs due to
9 the state of emergency and the closing of schools, school districts and/or municipalities are not

10 required to pay the vendor for the employees who have been furloughed or laid off. The number
11 of employees that a vendor employs pursuant to a contract with a school district or municipality
12 shall be verified by the vendor on a bi-weekly basis,

13 This act shall sunset with the lifting of the state of emergency and the resumption of
14 school in the Commonwealth.