

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Edward J. Kennedy*

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*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.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Edward J. Kennedy*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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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.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**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.