

SENATE No. 2868

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam G. Hinds

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 enhancing worker protection.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>

SENATE No. 2868

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2868) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Adam G. Hinds and Paul R. Feeney for legislation to enhance worker protection. Labor and Workforce Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act enhancing worker protection.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to protect workers 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 149 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding at the end thereof the following section:-

3 Section 204. There is hereby created an Office of the Ombudsman for Worker Protection,
4 herein to be referred to as the office, within the Office of the Attorney General.

5 (a) The Attorney General shall develop an ombudsman program to be administered by
6 this office for receiving, investigating, and resolving through administrative action complaints
7 received by employees and workers of any workplace in the Commonwealth regarding
8 occupational health and safety.

9 (b) The office may collect any relevant data to support the investigation, however the
10 identity of the employee or worker making the complaint shall remain confidential.

11 (c) The office may coordinate with law enforcement, municipal governments, public
12 health officials, and any other agency they determine is necessary to properly investigate and
13 resolve complaints.

14 (d) The office shall furnish annual reports to the Chairs of the House and Senate
15 Committees on Ways and Means, the Chairs of Joint Committee on Public Health, the Chairs of
16 Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, the Chairs of Joint Committee on the
17 Judiciary, and the Clerks of the House and Senate by December 31 of each calendar year. The
18 reports shall include but not be limited to data on the number of claims filed and resolved, the
19 nature of the claims filed, and the general industries that were investigated.