

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1974**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sean Garballey and Maria Duaine Robinson***

*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 the scheduling of employees.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/9/2021</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/16/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/16/2021</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Steven C. Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>3/22/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/13/2021</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/13/2021</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>4/14/2021</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>6/8/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>6/8/2021</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>6/11/2021</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>7/7/2021</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/7/2021</i>
<i>Orlando Ramos</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>7/22/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1974**

By Representatives Garballey of Arlington and Robinson of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1974) of Sean Garballey, Maria Duaine Robinson and others relative to the scheduling of employees. Labor and Workforce Development.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3809 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to the scheduling of employees.

*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. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 149A the  
2 following chapter:-

3 CHAPTER 149B. FAIR EMPLOYEE SCHEDULING PRACTICES

4 Section 1. (a) As used in this chapter, the following terms shall, unless the context clearly  
5 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

6 “Calendar week”, a period of 7 consecutive days beginning on any designated day.

7 “Chain”, a set of establishments that do business under the same trade name or brand or  
8 that are characterized by standardized options for decor, marketing, packaging, products and  
9 services, regardless of the type of ownership of each individual establishment.

10           “Franchisee”, an individual, corporation, partnership or other entity, or group of  
11 individuals or entities, that operates 1 or more fast food restaurants or retail stores in the  
12 commonwealth under a franchise agreement with another individual, corporation, partnership or  
13 other entity, or group of individuals or entities.

14           “Franchisor”, an individual, corporation, partnership or other entity, or group of  
15 individuals or entities, that grants a franchisee the right to operate 1 or more fast food restaurants  
16 or retail stores in the commonwealth under its trademark or trade name.

17           “Covered employer”, an employer that is a retail Establishment, a hospitality  
18 establishment or a food services establishment, that employs 50 or more employees worldwide  
19 regardless of where those employees perform work, including but not limited to chain  
20 establishments or franchises associated with a franchisor or network of franchises that employ  
21 more than 50 employees in aggregate. In determining the number of employees for purposes of  
22 this subsection, all employees performing work for compensation on a full-time, part-time or  
23 temporary basis shall be counted, provided that where the number of employees who work for an  
24 employer for compensation fluctuates, business size may be determined for the current calendar  
25 year based upon the average number of employees who worked for compensation per week  
26 during the preceding calendar year, and provided further that in determining the number of  
27 employees performing work for an employer that is a chain business, the total number of  
28 employees in that group of establishments shall be counted.

29           “Employee”, any person who performs services for an employer for wage, remuneration  
30 or other compensation, except that employees employed by cities and towns shall only be  
31 considered employees for purposes of this chapter if this law is accepted by vote or by

32 appropriation as provided in Article CXV of the Amendments to the Constitution of the  
33 Commonwealth.

34 “Employer”, any individual, corporation, partnership or other private or public entity,  
35 including any agent thereof, who engages the services of an employee for wages, remuneration  
36 or other compensation, except the United States government shall not be considered an Employer  
37 and cities and towns shall only be considered Employers for the purposes of this law if this law is  
38 accepted by vote or by appropriation as provided by Article CXC of the Amendments to the  
39 Constitution of the Commonwealth.

40 “Food services establishment”, the fixed point of sale location for establishments defined  
41 in NAICS under code 722 as food services and drinking places.

42 “Hospitality establishment”, hotels and motels, as those terms are provided in NAICS  
43 code 721110, and casino hotels, as that term is provided in NAICS code 721120.

44 “NAICS”, 2012 North American Industry Classification System.

45 “On-call shift” or “on-call hours”, time that an employer requires an employee to be  
46 available to work, and to contact the employer or its designee or wait to be contacted by the  
47 employer or its designee to determine whether the employee must report to work at that time.

48 “Predictability pay”, payments to an employee, calculated on an hourly basis at the  
49 employee’s regular hourly rate, as compensation from changes made by the employer to an  
50 employee’s work schedule. An employer must pay an employee predictability pay, when  
51 required by this chapter, in addition to any wages earned for work performed by the employee.

52 “Posted work schedule”, the written notice of work hours required to be provided no later  
53 than 14 days before the first day of any new schedule pursuant to subsection (c) of section 2.

54 “Retail establishment”, the fixed point of sale location for an establishment defined in the  
55 NAICS under codes 441110 to 453998 as a retail trade establishment.

56 “Shift”, the consecutive hours an employer requires an employee to work or to be on-call  
57 to work, provided that a break of 1 hour or less shall not be considered an interruption of  
58 consecutive hours.

59 “Successor”, any person to whom an employer quitting, selling out, exchanging, or  
60 disposing of a business sells or otherwise conveys in bulk and not in the ordinary course of the  
61 employer’s business, a major part of the property, whether real or personal, tangible or  
62 intangible, of the employer’s business. For purposes of this definition, “person” means an  
63 individual, receiver, administrator, executor, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm,  
64 corporation, business trust, partnership, limited liability partnership, company, joint stock,  
65 company, limited liability company, association, joint venture, or any other legal or commercial  
66 entity.

67 “Time of hire”, the period after an offer of employment and acceptance of the offer of  
68 employment and on or before the commencement of employment.

69 “Writing”, a printed or printable communication in physical or electronic format  
70 including a communication that is transmitted through electronic mail, text message or computer  
71 system or is otherwise sent and stored electronically.

72 “Work schedule”, all of an employee’s regular and on-call shifts, including specific start  
73 and end times for each shift, during a calendar week.

74 Section 2. (a) Upon hiring an employee, a covered employer shall provide such  
75 employee with a written, good faith estimate of the employee’s work schedule. The employer  
76 shall revise the good faith estimate when there is a significant change to the employee’s work  
77 schedule due to changes in the employee’s availability or to the employer’s business needs. The  
78 good faith estimate is not a contractual offer binding the employer, provided, however, that an  
79 estimate made without a good faith basis shall be a violation of this section. The good faith  
80 estimate shall contain: (i) the average number of work hours the employee can expect to work  
81 each week; (ii) whether the employee can expect to work any on-call shifts; and (iii) a subset of  
82 days and a subset of times or shifts that the employee can expect to work, or days of the week  
83 and times or shifts on which the employee will not be scheduled to work.

84 (b) At the time of hire and during employment, the employee has the right to make work  
85 schedule requests of a covered employer. The requests protected under this section include, but  
86 are not limited to: (i) requests not to be scheduled for work shifts during certain days or times or  
87 at certain locations; (ii) requests not to work on-call shifts; (iii) requests for certain hours, days,  
88 or locations of work; and (iv) requests for more or fewer work hours. The covered employer is  
89 encouraged to engage in an interactive process to discuss such employee requests, but may grant  
90 or deny the request for any reason that is not unlawful.

91 (c) On or before the commencement of employment, a covered employer shall provide  
92 the employee with a written work schedule that runs through the last date of the currently posted  
93 schedule. Thereafter, an employer shall provide written notice of work hours no later than 14

94 days before the first day of any new schedule. Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
95 prohibit a covered employer from providing greater advance notice of employee's work  
96 schedules or changes in schedules than the notice period required by this section. An employer  
97 who fails to post a written work schedule at least 14 calendar days before the first day of the  
98 work schedule shall compensate each employee in the amount of \$75 per day that the schedule is  
99 not posted.

100 (d) Written notice of the work schedule shall be provided by posting the work schedule in  
101 a conspicuous place at the workplace that is readily accessible and visible to all employees and  
102 transmitting the posted work schedule to each employee. Such transmission may be done  
103 electronically if electronic means are regularly used to communicate scheduling information to  
104 employees. The posted work schedule shall include the shifts of all current employees at that  
105 worksite, whether or not they are scheduled to work or be on-call that week.

106 (e) A covered employer shall provide notice of any proposed changes to the employee's  
107 posted work schedule as promptly as possible and prior to the change taking effect. The covered  
108 employer must revise the written work schedule to reflect any changes within 24 hours of  
109 making the change.

110 (f) An employee may decline to work any hours not included in the posted work  
111 schedule. If the employee voluntarily consents to work such hours, such consent shall be  
112 recorded in writing. A communication of an employee's desire to work shifts made available  
113 pursuant to section 9 shall constitute written consent.



114 Section 3. (a) For each employer-initiated change to the posted work schedule that  
115 occurs after the advance notice required in subsection (c) of section 2, a covered employer shall  
116 pay an employee predictability pay at the following rates:

117 (1) One hour of predictability pay when the covered employer adds hours of work or  
118 changes the date, time, or location of a work shift with no loss of hours.

119 (2) No less than one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay per hour for any  
120 scheduled hours the employee does not work when the covered employer: (i) subtracts hours  
121 from a regular or on-call shift; or (ii) cancels a regular or on-call shift.

122 (b) A covered employer is not required to pay predictability pay under this section or  
123 obtain written consent pursuant to subsection (f) of section 2 when:

124 (1) an employee requests a shift change in writing including, but not limited to, the use of  
125 sick leave, vacation leave, or other leave policies offered by the employer;

126 (2) a schedule change is the result of a mutually agreed upon shift trade or coverage  
127 arrangement between employees, subject to any existing employer policy regarding required  
128 conditions for employees to exchange shifts;

129 (3) the employee did not intend to work a scheduled shift for any reason;

130 (4) the covered employer's operations cannot begin or continue due to:

131 (i) threats to the employees or the employer's property;

132 (ii) the failure of a public utility or the shutdown of public transportation;

133 (iii) a fire, flood or other natural disaster;

134 (iv) a state of emergency declared by the president of the United States or the governor;  
135 or  
136 (v) severe weather conditions that pose a threat to employee safety.

137 Section 4. (a) An employee may decline, without penalty, any work hours that are  
138 scheduled or otherwise occur: (1) less than 11 hours after the end of the previous day's shift; or  
139 (2) during the 11 hours following the end of a shift that spanned 2 days. An employee may  
140 consent to work such shifts; provided, however, that consent must be provided in writing, either  
141 for each such shift or for multiple shifts, and may be revoked in writing at any time during  
142 employment.

143 (b) The employer shall compensate the employee for each instance that the employee  
144 works a shift described in subsection (a) at 1 and one-half times the employee's scheduled rate of  
145 pay for the hours worked that are less than 11 hours apart.

146 Section 5. (a) Before hiring new employees from an external applicant pool or  
147 subcontractors, including hiring through the use of temporary services or staffing agencies, a  
148 covered employer shall offer work shifts to existing employees.

149 (b) The covered employer shall post written notice of available work shifts for at least 72  
150 hours, unless a shorter posting period is necessary in order for the work to be timely performed.

151 The notice shall be in English and in the primary languages of the employees at the  
152 particular workplace and shall be posted in a conspicuous location at the workplace that is  
153 readily accessible to all employees. The notice shall also be provided electronically to each  
154 employee if the covered employer customarily communicates in such manner with employees.

155           The notice shall include a description of the position and its required qualifications, the  
156 schedule of available shifts, the length of time the employer anticipates requiring coverage of the  
157 additional hours, the process by which employees may notify the employer of their desire to  
158 work the offered shifts, and an advisement that an employee may accept a subset of the shifts  
159 offered.

160           The employer may post the notice concurrently at the location where the hours described  
161 in the notice will be worked, locations other than the location where the work is to be performed,  
162 and to external candidates.

163           (c) A covered employer shall distribute hours, in accordance with the criteria contained in  
164 the notice required by subsection 5(f)(3), to 1 or more employees who have accepted such shifts  
165 and who, to a reasonable employer acting in good faith, are qualified to perform the work,  
166 provided, however, that:

167           (1) a covered employer shall distribute hours to employees whose regular workplace is  
168 the location where the hours described in the notice will be worked; or, if no such employee  
169 accepts the hours within the time defined in this section, to employees whose regular workplace  
170 is a covered location other than the location where such hours will be worked; or, if no such  
171 employee accepts the hours described in the notice within the time defined in this section, to  
172 temporary or seasonal workers who have been continuously assigned for at least 4 weeks to the  
173 location where the hours described in the notice will be worked; and

174           (2) the Employer's system for distribution of hours shall not discriminate on the basis of  
175 race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity,  
176 disability, age, marital or familial status, nor on the basis of family caregiving responsibilities or

177 status as a student, and the employer may not distribute hours in a manner intended to avoid  
178 application of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, 42 U.S.C. section 18001 et seq.

179 (d) A covered employer may hire individuals from an external applicant pool or  
180 subcontractors to perform the work described in the notice required by this section if the  
181 employer provides notice of available work shifts to all employees as required herein, and:

182 (1) no employee responds to the written notice of available work shifts by the end of the  
183 posting period;

184 (2) within the posting period, the employer receives written confirmation from eligible  
185 employees that they are not interested in accepting the available work shifts; or

186 (3) existing employees have accepted a subset of the offered work hours, in which case  
187 the existing employees must be awarded that subset of work hours and external applicants may  
188 be offered the remaining hours, provided that the employer is not required to award partial shifts  
189 to existing employees if doing so would require the employer to hire a new employee to fill a  
190 shift of less than 4 hours.

191 (e) This section shall not be construed to require any covered employer to offer  
192 employees work hours paid at a premium rate under state or federal law, or to prohibit such  
193 employer from offering such work hours.

194 (f) A covered employer shall notify employees in writing of their policy for offering and  
195 distributing work hours under this section, at the time of hire and within 24 hours of any change,  
196 and shall post the notice in an accessible location in the workplace. The notice shall  
197 communicate:

198 (1) where employees can access written notices of available work hours;

199 (2) the process by which employees may notify the employer of their desire to work the  
200 available work hours; and

201 (3) the criteria for distribution of work hours among qualified and interested employees.

202 (g) A covered employer who fails to offer hours of work as required by this section shall  
203 compensate each existing employee \$100 for each such occurrence. An employer who fails to  
204 award hours to the qualified employee who is eligible to receive the hours under the policy  
205 required by subsection (f) shall compensate the qualified employee in the amount of \$1,000.

206 Section 6. (a) It shall be unlawful for an employer or any other person to interfere with,  
207 restrain, or deny the exercise of, or the attempt to exercise, any right protected under this chapter.

208 (b) No person shall take any adverse action against an employee that penalizes such  
209 employee for, or is reasonably likely to deter such employee from, exercising or attempting to  
210 exercise any right protected under this chapter. Taking an adverse action includes: threatening,  
211 intimidating, disciplining, discharging, demoting, suspending or harassing an employee;  
212 assigning an employee to a lesser position in terms of job classification, job security, or other  
213 condition of employment; reducing the hours or pay of an employee or denying the employee  
214 additional hours; informing another employer that an employee has engaged in activities  
215 protected by this chapter, and discriminating against the employee, including actions or threats  
216 related to perceived immigration status or work authorization.

217 (c) Protections of this section shall apply to any person who mistakenly but in good faith  
218 alleges violations of this chapter.

219 (d) It shall be considered a rebuttable presumption of retaliation if the employer or any  
220 other person takes an adverse action against an employee within 90 calendar days of the  
221 employee's exercise of rights protected in this chapter. In the case of seasonal employment that  
222 ended before the close of the 90 calendar day period, the presumption also applies if the  
223 employer fails to rehire a former employee at the next opportunity for work in the same position.

224 Section 7. The attorney general shall coordinate the implementation, administration, and  
225 enforcement of this Chapter, and shall promulgate such regulations or guidelines as it may deem  
226 necessary for such purposes.

227 Section 8. Each covered employer shall post and keep posted, in conspicuous places on  
228 the premises of the employer where notices to employees and applicants for employment are  
229 customarily posted, a notice, to be prepared or approved by the attorney general, setting forth the  
230 rights and privileges provided under this chapter, stating that retaliation against employees for  
231 exercising such rights is prohibited, and providing such other information as the attorney general  
232 may require.

233 Section 9. (a) Covered employers shall keep records necessary to demonstrate  
234 compliance with this chapter, including but not limited to good faith estimates of work  
235 schedules, written work schedules and any modifications thereto, written consent for work shifts  
236 as required by this chapter, and offers of work shifts to existing employees and responses to  
237 those offers. Employers shall retain such records for a period of 2 years, and shall allow the  
238 attorney general access to such records, with appropriate notice and at a mutually agreeable time,  
239 to monitor compliance with the requirements of this chapter. When an issue arises as to a  
240 covered employer's compliance with this chapter, if the employer does not maintain or retain

241 adequate records documenting compliance, or does not allow the attorney general reasonable  
242 access to such records within 30 days of the attorney general’s request, it shall be presumed that  
243 the employer has violated the chapter, absent clear and convincing evidence otherwise.

244 (b) Upon request by any employee, and in accordance with the rules of the attorney  
245 general, a covered employer must provide such employee with work schedules in writing for any  
246 previous week worked for the past 2 years, including the originally posted and modified versions  
247 of work schedules.

248 (c) Employers may record employee consent and employee requests pursuant to  
249 subsection (f) of section 2, clause (1) of paragraph (b) of section 3 and subsection (a) of section 4  
250 using any printed or printable communication in physical or electronic format, including a  
251 communication that is transmitted through email, text message, or a computer system, or is  
252 otherwise sent and maintained electronically.

253 Section 10. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to discourage employers from  
254 adopting or retaining scheduling policies more generous than policies that comply with the  
255 requirements of this chapter and nothing in this chapter shall be construed to diminish or impair  
256 the obligation of an employer to comply with any contract, collective bargaining agreement, or  
257 any employment benefit program or plan in effect on the effective date of this section that  
258 provides to employees greater scheduling rights than the rights established under this chapter.

259 SECTION 2. Section 27C of chapter 149 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
260 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 5 and 15, the words “or section 1A,  
261 1B or 19 of chapter 151” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- ,  
262 section 1A, 1B or 19 of chapter 151 or chapter 149B.

263 SECTION 3. Said section 27C of said chapter 149, as so appearing, is hereby further  
264 amended by inserting after the words “or 148B”, in lines 29, 37 and 89, in each instance, the  
265 following words:- or chapter 149B.

266 SECTION 4. Section 150 of said chapter 149, as so appearing, is hereby amended, by  
267 striking out, in line 22, the words “or section 19 of chapter 151” and inserting in place thereof the  
268 following words:- , section 19 of chapter 151 or chapter 149B

269 SECTION 5. Clause (e) of section 25 of chapter 151A of the General Laws, as so  
270 appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:- No  
271 disqualification shall be imposed if the individual establishes to the satisfaction of the  
272 commissioner that the reason for the individual's separation was due to the employer's failure to  
273 comply with chapter 149B, or due to a significant change to the employee's work schedule due to  
274 changes in the employer's business needs.