

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 296**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Lenny Mirra and James M. Kelcourse*

*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 expanding relief to new businesses established during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                     | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:     | DATE ADDED:      |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Lenny Mirra</i>        | <i>2nd Essex</i>      | <i>2/17/2021</i> |
| <i>James M. Kelcourse</i> | <i>1st Essex</i>      | <i>2/17/2021</i> |
| <i>Kay Khan</i>           | <i>11th Middlesex</i> | <i>6/15/2021</i> |
| <i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>    | <i>14th Bristol</i>   | <i>6/23/2021</i> |

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By Messrs. Mirra of Georgetown and Kelcourse of Amesbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 296) of Lenny Mirra and James M. Kelcourse relative to expanding relief to new businesses established during the COVID-19 pandemic. Community Development and Small Businesses.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to expanding relief to new businesses established during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*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 general provisions or special laws to the contrary,  
2 owners of new businesses shall be eligible to receive state unemployment benefits in the event of  
3 a declared state of emergency. Any individual collecting unemployment benefits, as permitted by  
4 this act, shall provide to the department of unemployment assistance proof of their intent to open  
5 their new business immediately, prior to, or during a declared state of emergency. For the  
6 purpose of this act, the term, “new business”, shall mean any business that an owner intended to  
7 open immediately prior to, or during, a declared state of emergency. The department of  
8 unemployment assistance shall determine what documentation shall be required as proof of  
9 intent to open a new business.

10           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect immediately upon its passage.