

HOUSE No. 4671

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 11, 2022.

The committee on Covid-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 251) of Eric P. Lesser, Jon Santiago and Diana DiZoglio for legislation to establish the Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 501) of Jon Santiago and others for legislation to establish the Massachusetts coronavirus recovery corps, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4671) ought to pass.

For the committee,

WILLIAM J. DRISCOLL, JR..

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

An Act establishing the Coronavirus Recovery Corps.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
2 Commonwealth Corps, as established in chapter 192 of the acts of 2007, as amended in chapter
3 142 of the acts of 2011, shall be expanded to include the Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery
4 Corps, established in direct response to the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic in the Commonwealth.
5 The Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps shall be administered by the Massachusetts
6 Service Alliance. In order to promote community service and build organizational capacity, the
7 Massachusetts Service Alliance shall deploy service members to support organizations directly
8 addressing the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Massachusetts, specifically
9 focused on access to health services, disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and
10 workforce development as outlined in paragraphs (1) through (3) below. The Massachusetts
11 Coronavirus Recovery Corps, subject to appropriation, will place service members in:

12 (1) health-focused organizations, including but not limited to, community health centers
13 and municipal public health departments, throughout the Commonwealth that have seen higher
14 incidences of COVID-19 or that are located in high-risk communities and in communities in

15 need as determined by the Massachusetts Service Alliance. The Massachusetts Coronavirus
16 Recovery Corps shall provide support including, but not limited to, care navigation, patient
17 education, and conducting outreach to connect new patients with health care services. The work
18 of the Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps members within this focus area shall place a
19 special emphasis on addressing health disparities that exist for racial and ethnic populations.

20 (2) disaster services organizations responding directly to COVID-19 that need support in
21 areas including, but not limited to, food distribution, personal protective equipment distribution,
22 ground support, medical distribution, distribution of future vaccines, and other areas where there
23 is ongoing, emergent need as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic as determined by the
24 Massachusetts Service Alliance; and

25 (3) organizations, as determined by the Massachusetts Service Alliance, that support
26 workforce development pipelines throughout the Commonwealth in order to connect residents
27 who are unemployed and underemployed as a direct result of COVID-19 to job training, adult
28 education, work readiness skills, employment opportunities, and career advising activities.

29 (b) The Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps shall exist until its mission is
30 deemed complete during the COVID-19 pandemic recovery period as determined by the
31 commissioner of the department of public health or their designee, the secretary of public safety
32 and security or their designee, and the secretary of labor and workforce development or their
33 designee, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Service Alliance, or not more than four years
34 after the governor's state of emergency declaration is lifted, whichever is sooner.

35 (c) The Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps shall be supported with public and
36 private funds, which shall be administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

37 (d) The Massachusetts Service Alliance shall, at its discretion, reach out to relevant
38 agencies, including the executive office of health and human services, the executive office of
39 public safety and security, the executive office of labor and workforce development, as needed to
40 obtain relevant information and data. The above-named agencies shall provide any data or
41 information requested by the Massachusetts Service Alliance that may be needed to fulfill the
42 goals of the Recovery Corps.

43 (e) Organizations shall apply directly to the Massachusetts Service Alliance to be
44 considered for placement through the Coronavirus Recovery Corps. Organizations who receive
45 members directly from the Coronavirus Recovery Corps shall report bi-annually to the
46 Massachusetts Service Alliance on key metrics focused on how the members work is directly
47 addressing the ongoing needs from the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.

48 (f) The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, in conjunction with the
49 Massachusetts Service Alliance, shall conduct a study relative to determining the effectiveness
50 and utility of the Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps during the COVID-19 pandemic
51 and potential need for a similar program during future pandemics or other emergency scenarios
52 in the Commonwealth. The study shall include an analysis of the program and recommendations
53 for additional measures and resources that would be required for the Massachusetts Coronavirus
54 Recovery Corps to operate effectively during future pandemics and emergency scenarios. The
55 Executive Office of Public Safety and Security shall file a written report of its findings and any
56 recommendations within 120 days following the termination of the Massachusetts Coronavirus
57 Recovery Corps. Said written report shall be filed with the clerks of the house of representatives
58 and the senate and shall include its recommendations together with any drafts of legislation
59 necessary to carry its recommendations into effect.