

HOUSE No. 3142

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ann-Margaret Ferrante

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 definition of fraud in public construction bid laws.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>	<i>1/20/2021</i>
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Marc T. Lombardo</i>	<i>22nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>

<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Brandy Fluker Oakley</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Orlando Ramos</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Paul F. Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>David Biele</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>3/25/2021</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>4/22/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 3142

By Ms. Ferrante of Gloucester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3142) of Ann-Margaret Ferrante and others relative to the definition of fraud in public construction bid laws. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2696 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the definition of fraud in public construction bid laws.

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. Subsection (a) of section 39M of chapter 30 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 21 to 23, the
3 words “The undersigned certifies under penalties of perjury that this bid is in all respects bona
4 fide, fair and made without collusion or fraud with any other person” and inserting in place
5 thereof the following words:-

6 The undersigned certifies under penalties of perjury that this bid is in all respects bona
7 fide, fair and made without collusion with any person and contains no intentional
8 misrepresentations, omissions or false statements. As used in this paragraph the word “person”
9 shall mean any natural person, joint venture, partnership, corporation or any other business or
10 legal entity.

11 SECTION 2. Section 44A of chapter 149 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
12 amended by inserting after the definition of “ Eligible” the following definition:-

13 “Fraud”, a statement, act or omission relating to a material fact that (i) has the natural
14 tendency to be relied upon by or to influence the average person, (ii) is knowingly false or
15 misleading or is in reckless disregard of its truth or falsity and (iii) is intended to mislead,
16 regardless of whether the statement, act or omission is actually relied upon;

17 And further, by striking the definition of “responsible” and inserting in place thereof the
18 following new definition:-

19 ““Responsible” means demonstrably possessing the skill, ability and integrity necessary
20 to faithfully perform the work called for by a particular contract, based upon a determination of
21 competent workmanship and financial soundness in accordance with the provisions of section
22 forty-four D of this chapter and shall certify that his bid contains no misrepresentations,
23 omissions, or false statements.”

24 SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 149A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
25 amended by inserting after the definition of “Designer” the following definition:-

26 “Fraud”, a statement, act or omission relating to a material fact that (i) has the natural
27 tendency to be relied upon by or to influence the average person, (ii) is knowingly false or
28 misleading or is in reckless disregard of its truth or falsity and (iii) is intended to mislead,
29 regardless of whether the statement, act or omission is actually relied upon.

30 SECTION 4. Section 19 of said chapter 149A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
31 hereby amended by striking out the clause six in its entirety, and replacing it with the following:-

32 “(6) The RFP shall require that every response shall be accompanied by a bid deposit in
33 the form of a bid bond, or cash, or a certified check on, or a treasurer’s or cashier’s check issued
34 by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the awarding authority. The amount of such
35 bid deposit shall be 5 per cent of the value of the bid. Any person submitting a bid under this
36 sections hall, on such a bid, certify as follows:

37 The undersigned certifies under penalty of perjury that this bid is in all respects bona fide,
38 fair, made without collusion with any other person and contains no intentional material
39 misrepresentations, omissions or false statements. As used in this paragraph the word “person”
40 shall mean any natural person, joint venture, partnership, corporation or other business or legal
41 entity.”

42 SECTION 5. Subsection (f) of section 8 of chapter 149A, as so appearing, is hereby
43 amended by striking the fourth sentence and replacing it with the following new language:-

44 “The decision of the prequalification committee shall be final and not subject to appeal
45 except on the grounds that a submission contains intentional, material misrepresentations,
46 omissions, or false statements, or of collusion.”