

SENATE No. 1201

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Barry R. Finegold

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 emergency unemployment insurance for gig economy workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Barry R. Finegold

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1201

By Mr. Finegold, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1201) of Barry R. Finegold for legislation relative to emergency unemployment insurance for gig economy workers. Labor and Workforce Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to emergency unemployment insurance for gig economy workers.

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. Amends Chapter 151A of the General Laws to require companies that
2 contract services from no less than 100 independent contractors to contribute to the
3 Massachusetts Unemployment Insurance fund.

4 SECTION 2. The contribution must be deposited directly to the Massachusetts
5 Unemployment Insurance Fund and must be equivalent to no less than 6% of the initial \$7,000 in
6 wages paid to eligible independent contractors who claimed no less than 75% of their income
7 from the contracting company in the previous fiscal year.

8 SECTION 3. Unemployed independent contractors who claimed no less than 75% of
9 their income from the contracting company in the previous fiscal year will be eligible for the
10 duration of a State of Emergency to receive weekly unemployment insurance benefits, including
11 up to 50% of their average weekly wage, and will cease to be eligible when the Governor
12 suspends or terminates the State of Emergency.

13 SECTION 4. In order to be eligible for unemployment benefits during a State of
14 Emergency, independent contractors must also be physically able to work, available to work and
15 actively seeking work with no less than three work search attempts. Otherwise eligible
16 independent contractors who were refused, quit or were fired are not eligible for weekly
17 unemployment insurance benefits during a State of Emergency.

18 SECTION 5. If the State of Emergency continues for no less than 6 weeks, contracting
19 companies are required to make an additional contribution, equal to the first and deposited
20 directly to the Massachusetts Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. Additional equivalent
21 contributions are required every 6 weeks for the duration of the State of Emergency.