

SENATE No. 1886

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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 tax relief to unemployed workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>Maria Duaiame Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/6/2021</i>

SENATE No. 1886

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1886) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Jack Patrick Lewis, Carol A. Doherty, James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to emergency tax relief to unemployed workers. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to emergency tax relief to unemployed workers.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide financial relief to taxpayers experiencing unemployment during the Covid-19 pandemic, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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 chapter 62 of the General Laws or any other general or
2 special law to the contrary, the commissioner of revenue shall permit a taxpayer who received
3 unemployment compensation during tax years 2020 or 2021 to pay any income taxes due on
4 such unemployment compensation on or before December 31, 2022, without penalties or
5 interest. For purposes of this section, a taxpayer may defer payment of taxes on an amount not to
6 exceed 5 percent of unemployment compensation received during the tax year.

7 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding chapter 62 of the General Laws or any other general or
8 special law to the contrary, the commissioner of revenue shall establish a hardship tax
9 forgiveness program for taxpayers who received unemployment compensation during tax years

10 2020 or 2021 and whose household income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty
11 level for either tax year 2020 or 2021, under which any income taxes otherwise due on such
12 unemployment compensation payments shall be waived for that tax year. Taxpayers who elected
13 to have income taxes withheld from their unemployment compensation benefits will have those
14 taxes refunded to them.

15 SECTION 3. For purposes of this Act, unemployment compensation shall include
16 benefits received under chapter 151A of the General Laws, under the Federal-State Extended
17 Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970, 26 USC 3304 note, under Short Time
18 Compensation, 26 USC 3306(v), under the Trade Readjustment Allowance, 19 USC sections
19 2291-2293, under the Presidential Memorandum issued August 8, 2020 Authorizing the Other
20 Needs Assistance Program for Major Disaster Declarations Related to Coronavirus Disease
21 2019, under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, and
22 under the Continued Assistance to Unemployed Workers Act of 2020, or any amendments
23 extending unemployment benefits during the Covid-19 pandemic.

24 SECTION 4. The department of unemployment assistance and the department of
25 revenue shall provide individuals with notice of sections 1 through 3 of this act in plain language
26 and the notice shall meet the requirements of clause iii of subsection (d) of section 62A of
27 chapter 151A of the General Laws.

28 SECTION 5. The commissioner of revenue shall promulgate regulations or guidance to
29 implement sections 1 to 4 of this act.