

SENATE No. 251

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Eric P. Lesser

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 establishing the Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>4/6/2021</i>

SENATE No. 251

By Mr. Lesser, a 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. Covid-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing the Massachusetts 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
8 addressing challenges posed by COVID-19 in Massachusetts, including access to health services,
9 disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and workforce development as outlined in
10 paragraphs (1) through (3) below. The Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps, subject to
11 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 a wide range of support including, but not limited to, care
17 navigation, patient education, and conducting outreach to connect new patients with health care
18 services. The work of the Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps members within this focus
19 area shall place a special emphasis on addressing health disparities that exist for racial and ethnic
20 populations;

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

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

30 (b) The Massachusetts Coronavirus Recovery Corps shall exist until its mission is
31 deemed complete during the COVID-19 pandemic recovery period as determined by the
32 commissioner of the department of public health or their designee, the secretary of public safety
33 and security or their designee, and the secretary of labor and workforce development or their

34 designee, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Service Alliance, or not more than three years
35 after the governor's state of emergency declaration is lifted, whichever is sooner.

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

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

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