

HOUSE No. 1863

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael S. Day, (BY REQUEST)

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 for a minimum hourly health improvement wage.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| <i>Vincent L. Dixon</i> | <i>60 Lake Street Unit N Winchester Massachusetts 01890</i> | <i>1/20/2023</i> |

HOUSE No. 1863

By Representative Day of Stoneham (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1863) of Vincent L. Dixon relative to establishing minimum hourly health improvement wage. Labor and Workforce Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act for a minimum hourly health improvement wage.

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. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:

3 An Act for a Minimum Hourly Health Improvement Wage.

4 1.) Healthcare costs, and insurance, are vital topics, and proper subjects of government
5 operations, and public policy, for all residents of the Commonwealth; and so this Minimum
6 Hourly Health Improvement Wage, is proposed, to assist in better health services, and financing.

7 2.) As economic conditions, have changed, sometimes in unfortunate ways, many
8 individuals have found the need, or availability, to only be able to work at one or more, part-time
9 jobs. Many, or even most of these positions, lack full benefits, further stressing these individual
10 employees. In order to earn sufficient resources, and sometimes not enough, even then, many
11 individuals are working, in excess of the number of hours of a full-time job, and despite the
12 stress, and additional travel time, have challenged access to medical services.

13 3.) While various programs have been developed, and have varieties of value, medical
14 services insurances, are still strongly associated with employment. Developments at the Federal
15 level, as well as state circumstances, continue to evolve, and it is in this context that this
16 legislation, is created.

17 4.) The Public Health Council (PHC), and the Department of Public Health (DPH), are
18 hereby authorized, and empowered to analyze, and develop recommendations for a Minimum
19 Health Care Improvement Wage. The PHC, and the DPH, shall have the power to establish
20 suitable Regulations, for both the Pilot Programs, and implementation of full programs, after
21 suitable Pilot Program development.

22 5.) An amount, shall be determined, by which each employee will receive a portable,
23 health care insurance earning, for each, and every hour worked. In so doing, for example, if an
24 employee worked two separate jobs, of 20 hours each, they would receive 40 hours of Minimum
25 Health Care Improvement Wage. If an employee worked three separate jobs of 18 hours each,
26 they would receive 54 hours of Minimum Health Care Improvement Wage, thereby also
27 adjusting in some general way, for the risks, of excessive work hours, and stress.

28 6.) All employers, of at least 50 employees, would, and/or should find, an equality of
29 operations, in terms of health care costs, since some amount would accrue to each employee, for
30 each hour worked; in other words, a condition of business, would be the provision and/or
31 contribution of some health care compensation.

32 7.) This Minimum Health Care Improvement Wage, can be first established, as a Pilot
33 Program; after which, based on experience, it shall be recommended for full implementation.

34 8.) Costs of such a program, are a cost of doing business for an employer. Specific tax
35 credits, during the Pilot Program period can, and should be, recommended, and implemented; to
36 be further defined, and utilized, at the time of a more complete, comprehensive, and permanent
37 program.

38 9.) Employers of less than 50 employees, would be entitled to voluntary participation,
39 including specific tax credits, during the Pilot Program period.