

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Nick Collins

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 providing a COVID-19 retirement credit to essential public-sector workers.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| <i>Nick Collins</i> | <i>First Suffolk</i> | |
| <i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i> | <i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i> | <i>2/24/2023</i> |
| <i>Joan B. Lovely</i> | <i>Second Essex</i> | <i>4/13/2023</i> |
| <i>Steven George Xiarhos</i> | <i>5th Barnstable</i> | <i>6/21/2023</i> |
| <i>Patricia A. Haddad</i> | <i>5th Bristol</i> | <i>9/19/2023</i> |
| <i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i> | <i>9th Norfolk</i> | <i>11/14/2023</i> |
| <i>Ryan C. Fattman</i> | <i>Worcester and Hampden</i> | <i>4/10/2024</i> |

SENATE No.

By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Nick Collins for legislation relative to providing a COVID-19 retirement credit to essential public-sector workers. Public Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to providing a COVID-19 retirement credit to essential public-sector 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 Chapter 32 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the following new
2 section after Section 4:-

3 SECTION 1. (a) The following words shall have the following meanings

4 “Employee”, a person by employed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; its political
5 subdivisions, state and community colleges and universities under the board of higher education
6 and the University of Massachusetts.

7 “COVID-19 Essential Employee Retirement Credit Bonus,” three years added to age or
8 years of service or a combination thereof for the purpose of calculating a retirement benefit

9 SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the secretary
10 of administration and finance shall identify all employees who have volunteered to work or who
11 have been required to work at their respective worksites or any other worksite outside of their

12 personal residence during the COVID-19 state of emergency declared by the Governor of the
13 Commonwealth of Massachusetts on March 10, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

14 (b) On or before June 30, 2021, the secretary of administration shall work with employers
15 of employees defined in this section to identify and provide a list of employees and their home
16 mailing address to the state retirement board and all other relevant retirement boards
17 documenting the employees' eligibility for the COVID -19 Essential Employee Retirement
18 Credit Bonus defined in Section 3 of this Act hereinafter referred to as "credit". Said retirement
19 boards shall notify in writing each employee who will be eligible for the credit.

20 SECTION 3. (a) Notwithstanding chapter 32 of the General Laws or any other general or
21 special law to the contrary, and not before receiving from the secretary of administration and
22 finance the report required under subsection (a) of section 2, the state board of retirement and all
23 other relevant retirement boards shall establish and make the credit available to eligible
24 employees. Said credit shall be available for use by eligible employees at any time on or after the
25 effective date of this act.