

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2177**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Kenneth P. Sweezey and Patrick Joseph Kearney***

*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 to provide economic security for fishing industry participants.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kenneth P. Sweezey</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/10/2025</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>2/18/2025</i>
<i>Mark D. Sylvia</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2025</i>

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By Representatives Swezey of Duxbury and Kearney of Scituate, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2177) of Kenneth P. Swezey, Patrick Joseph Kearney and others for legislation to authorize the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development to analyze the economic disruption and harm to the financial stability of those engaged in commercial fishing in the Commonwealth. Labor and Workforce Development.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1850 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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An Act to provide economic security for fishing industry participants.

*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 any general or special law to the contrary the Secretary of  
2 Labor and Workforce Development, in consultation with the Division of Marine Fisheries, is  
3 hereby authorized and directed to analyze the economic disruption and harm to the financial  
4 stability of those engaged in commercial fishing in the Commonwealth that results from the  
5 inability to earn income as a result of state and federal regulatory actions including but not  
6 limited to area closures, gear restrictions, and time limitations, and to develop a plan to mitigate  
7 such harm through mechanisms such as modifications to the state's unemployment insurance  
8 system to take into account the particular circumstances resulting from such regulatory actions.

9           Section 2 - In carrying out the provisions of section 1 the Secretary shall take into  
10 account the economic hardship occurring as a result of seasonal closures in the commercial  
11 lobster fishery for the purpose of preventing harm to North Atlantic Right Whales, in addition to  
12 other seasonal closures presently in place or which may occur in the future.

13           Section 3 - The Secretary shall file any plan developed pursuant to this act, together with  
14 any legislative recommendations to carry it out, with the clerks of the House and Senate not later  
15 than April 1, 2026.