

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1777**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Martha M. Walz*

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act regarding treble damages.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1777**

By Ms. Walz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1777) of Martha M. Walz and others for legislation to provide treble damages to employees for employer violations of certain labor laws. Labor and Workforce Development.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE

HOUSE  
 , NO. 1411 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act regarding treble damages.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to revise employee claims and awards for damages, 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. Section 27 of chapter 149 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the last paragraph and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following paragraph:-

4 Any employee claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this section may, at the  
5 expiration of 90 days after the filing of a complaint with the attorney general, or sooner if the  
6 attorney general assents in writing, and within 3 years after the violation, institute and prosecute  
7 in his own name and on his own behalf, or for himself and for others similarly situated, a civil  
8 action for injunctive relief, for any damages incurred, and for any lost wages and other benefits.  
9 Any employee so aggrieved who prevails in such an action shall, if the violation is willful, be  
10 awarded treble damages, as liquidated damages, for any lost wages and other benefits and shall

11 also be awarded the costs of the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees; provided, however, that  
12 any employee so aggrieved who prevails in such an action shall, if the violation is not willful, be  
13 awarded damages as determined by the court for any lost wages and other benefits and may also  
14 be awarded the costs of the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees.

15 SECTION 2. Section 27F of said chapter 149, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
16 striking out the last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

17 Any employee claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this section may, at the  
18 expiration of 90 days after the filing of a complaint with the attorney general, or sooner if the  
19 attorney general assents in writing, and within 3 years after the violation, institute and prosecute  
20 in his own name and on his own behalf, or for himself and for others similarly situated, a civil  
21 action for injunctive relief, for any damages incurred, and for any loss of wages and other  
22 benefits. Any employee so aggrieved who prevails in such an action shall, if the violation is  
23 willful, be awarded treble damages, as liquidated damages, for any lost wages and other benefits  
24 and shall also be awarded the costs of the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees; provided,  
25 however, that any employee so aggrieved who prevails in such an action shall, if the violation is  
26 not willful, be awarded damages as determined by the court for any lost wages and other benefits  
27 and may also be awarded the costs of the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees.

28 SECTION 3. Section 27G of said chapter 149, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
29 striking out the last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

30 Any employee claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this section may, at the  
31 expiration of 90 days after the filing of a complaint with the attorney general, or sooner if the  
32 attorney general assents in writing, and within 3 years after the violation, institute and prosecute  
33 in his own name and on his own behalf, or for himself and for others similarly situated, a civil  
34 action for injunctive relief, for any damages incurred, and for any lost wages and other benefits.  
35 Any employee so aggrieved who prevails in such an action shall if the violation is willful, be  
36 awarded treble damages, as liquidated damages, for any lost wages and other benefits and shall  
37 also be awarded the costs of the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees; provided, however, that  
38 any employee so aggrieved who prevails in such an action shall, if the violation is not willful, be  
39 awarded damages as determined by the court for any lost wages and other benefits and the  
40 employee may also be awarded the costs of the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees.

41 SECTION 4. Section 27H of said chapter 149, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
42 striking out the last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

43 Any employee claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this section may, at the  
44 expiration of 90 days after the filing of a complaint with the attorney general, or sooner if the  
45 attorney general assents in writing, and within 3 years after the violation, institute and prosecute  
46 in his own name and on his own behalf, or for himself and for others similarly situated, a civil  
47 action for injunctive relief, for any damages incurred, and for any lost wages and other benefits.

48 Any employee so aggrieved who prevails in such an action shall, if the violation is willful, be  
49 awarded treble damages, as liquidated damages, for any lost wages and other benefits and shall  
50 also be awarded the costs of the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees; provided, however, that  
51 any employee so aggrieved who prevails in such an action shall, if the violation is not willful, be  
52 awarded damages as determined by the court for any lost wages and other benefits and may also  
53 be awarded the costs of the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees.

54 SECTION 5. Section 150 of said chapter 149, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
55 striking out the last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

56 Any employee claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of sections 33E, 148, 148A, 148B,  
57 150C, 152, 152A or 159C or section 19 of chapter 151 may, at the expiration of 90 days after the  
58 filing of a complaint with the attorney general, or sooner if the attorney general assents in  
59 writing, and within 3 years after the violation, institute and prosecute in his own name and on his  
60 own behalf, or for himself and for others similarly situated, a civil action for injunctive relief, for  
61 any damages incurred, and for any lost wages and other benefits. Any employee so aggrieved  
62 and who prevails in such an action shall, if the violation is willful, be awarded treble damages, as  
63 liquidated damages, for any lost wages and other benefits and shall also be awarded the costs of  
64 the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees; provided, however, that any employee so aggrieved  
65 who prevails in such an action shall, if the violation is not willful, be awarded damages as  
66 determined by the court for any lost wages and other benefits and may also be awarded the costs  
67 of the litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees.