

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1979**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Carlos González*

*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 fairness for agricultural laborers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/24/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1979**

By Mr. González of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1979) of Carlos González and others relative to employees engaged in seasonal agricultural and farm work. Labor and Workforce Development.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing fairness for agricultural laborers.

*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. Chapter 136 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following new  
3 section:

4 Section 17. Every person employed in seasonal agricultural and farm work as defined in  
5 section

6 2 of chapter 151 who is not the parent, child, spouse or other member of the employer's  
7 immediate family shall be allowed at least 24 consecutive hours of rest in each calendar  
8 week.

9 Twenty-four consecutive hours spent at rest due to circumstances such as inclement  
10 weather or

11 unfavorable crop conditions shall be deemed to constitute the rest required by this  
12 section. No  
13 provision of this section shall prohibit an employee engaged in seasonal agricultural and  
14 farm  
15 work from voluntarily agreeing to work on such day of rest required by this paragraph,  
16 provided  
17 that the work is compensated at a rate which is at least one and one-half times the  
18 laborer's  
19 regular rate of pay for all hours worked on such day of rest.

20 SECTION 2. Section 1A of chapter 151 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
21 inserting at

22 the end of the first sentence, after the word "employed", the following provision:

23 ; provided, however, that with respect to employers employing employees engaged in  
24 seasonal

25 agricultural and farm work as defined in section 2, no employer in the commonwealth  
26 shall

27 employ any such employee for a work week longer than 55 hours unless such employee  
28 receives

29 compensation for his employment in excess of 55 hours at a rate not less than one and  
30 one-half

31 times the regular rate at which he is employed.

32 SECTION 3. Said section 1A of said chapter 151 is hereby further amended by striking  
33 out  
34 clause 19.

35 SECTION 4. Section 2 of said chapter 151 is hereby amended by striking out, in the first  
36 sentence of the definition of ‘Occupation,’ after the words “professional service”, the  
37 words  
38 “agricultural and farm work,”.

39 SECTION 5. Said section 2 of said chapter 151 is hereby further amended by adding the  
40 following definition:

41 “Seasonal”, when modifying “agricultural and farm work” as used in this chapter, means  
42 labor  
43 performed during a period of an agricultural business's operation of growing and  
44 harvesting (a)

45 lasting not more than 235 continuous days that includes the months of June, July and  
46 August, or

47 (b) beginning not earlier than the first day of August nor later than the first day of  
48 September and  
49 lasting not more than 100 continuous days.