

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4148**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Mike Connolly and Lindsay N. Sabadosa*

*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 canceling the rent and providing relief to all impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>3/6/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4148**

By Representatives Connolly of Cambridge and Sabadosa of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4148) of Mike Connolly, Lindsay N. Sabadosa and others for legislation to provide rental payments to certain tenants or occupants unable to pay due to the COVID-19 emergency. Housing.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act canceling the rent and providing relief to all impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for certain necessities pursuant to Article 47 of the Constitution, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety.

*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, payment of  
2 residential use and occupancy due and owing to landlords or lessors, whose tenants or occupants  
3 are unable to pay for such use and occupancy for reasons related directly or indirectly to the  
4 COVID-19 emergency, shall be paid forthwith by the commonwealth and shall be a payment of  
5 necessities pursuant to Article 47 of the Amendments of the Constitution.

6           Upon application of the landlord of financial distress due to nonpayment of use and  
7 occupancy for reasons related directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 emergency, the department  
8 of housing and community development, or any of its assignees, shall make payments for such

9 use and occupancy within 10 business days of application. Such application and payment shall  
10 be payment in full of the commonwealth's financial obligation.

11 SECTION 2. The department of housing and community development shall forthwith set  
12 forth policies for the implementation of this act with the goal of preserving housing stability for  
13 COVID-19 impacted residents by more effectively, equitably and efficiently distributing rental  
14 assistance funds and preventing judgments for evictions.

15 SECTION 3. This act shall expire on January 1, 2023.