

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4757**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**



*House of Representatives, May 28, 2020.*

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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1           *Ordered*, on March 10, 2020, pursuant to Executive Order No. 591, the Governor  
2   declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak; and  
3   Whereas, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued COVID-19 Order No. 13, Assuring Continued  
4   Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Certain Workplaces, and  
5   Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People ordering all non-essential workplaces and  
6   facilities closed and prohibiting public and private gatherings of more than 10 people; and  
7   Whereas, on March 27, 2020 the President of the United States declared that beginning on  
8   January 20, 2020 and continuing a major disaster exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
9   and ordered Federal assistance to supplement Commonwealth, tribal, and local recovery efforts  
10   in areas of the Commonwealth affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and Whereas, on March 31,  
11   2020, April 28, 2020, and May 15, 2020, the Governor issued COVID-19 Orders No. 21, 30, and  
12   32, respectively, which extended the period in which COVID-19 Order No. 13 would continue to

13 restrict the operation of businesses and organizations that do not provide COVID-19 Essential  
14 Services; and Whereas, on May 18, 2020, the Governor issued COVID-19 Order No. 33,  
15 Implementing a Phased Reopening of Workplaces and Imposing Workplace Safety Measures to  
16 Address COVID-19, allowing some non-essential business to operate with workplace safety  
17 rules and restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and Whereas, COVID-19 Order No.  
18 33 is the first of a 4-phase process to reopen the Massachusetts economy; and

19 Whereas, the required closures, workplace safety rules and restrictions, while necessary for the  
20 public safety and welfare of citizens of the Commonwealth, are having significant widespread  
21 economic impacts on Massachusetts businesses and workers; and Whereas, it is essential that  
22 there is proper oversight by the House to ensure that any public funds or other methods of  
23 intervention are being applied effectively and appropriately for the short-term and long-term  
24 benefit of the citizens of the Commonwealth; now therefore be it Ordered, That the House  
25 establish a temporary special standing committee on Covid-19 Economic Response and  
26 Recovery Efforts, hereinafter the committee. Said committee shall, without limitation: engage in  
27 an on-going review and oversight of federal and state economic response and recovery efforts in  
28 the Commonwealth; coordinate efforts with the executive branch to maximize federal assistance  
29 for the Commonwealth; and review current laws, rules, regulations and policies in order to make  
30 recommendations that will allow the Commonwealth to mitigate economic hardship, minimize  
31 unemployment and job loss, stabilize small business ownership, access additional funding or to  
32 otherwise stimulate the economy; and be it further Ordered, That, the committee shall coordinate  
33 efforts to the extent feasible with the House Committee on Ways and Means to maintain the  
34 Commonwealth's commitment to sound fiscal practices and a balanced budget while also  
35 working collaboratively with the executive branch to maximize effectiveness of all economic

36 stimulus and recovery efforts; and it is further Ordered, That the committee may hold remote or  
37 virtual hearings and may accept testimony; and be it further Ordered, That, the committee shall  
38 report back periodically to the House; and be it further Ordered, That, counsel to the House  
39 appointed pursuant to section 51 of chapter 3 of the General Laws and House Rule 13B shall  
40 serve as counsel to the committee; and be it further Ordered, That, the committee shall consist of  
41 15 members including the majority leader who shall serve as the chair; the assistant majority  
42 leader who shall serve as the vice chair; the minority leader, or a member designated by the  
43 minority leader; the chair of the committee on ways and means, or a member designated by the  
44 chair of the committee on ways and means; the ranking member of the committee on ways and  
45 means; the house vice chair of the joint committee on healthcare financing; the house chair of the  
46 joint committee on revenue; the house chair of the joint committee on economic development  
47 and emerging technologies; the house chair of the joint committee on community development  
48 and small business; the house vice chair of the joint committee on labor and workforce  
49 development; the house chair of the joint committee on financial services; the house chair of the  
50 joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight; the house chair of the joint  
51 committee on consumer protection and professional licensure; and 2 members of the house  
52 appointed by the speaker.