

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 918**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Shaunna L. O'Connell***

*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 relative to treble damages.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>
<i>Geoff Diehl</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 918**

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By Mrs. O'Connell of Taunton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 918) of Shaunna L. O'Connell, David F. DeCoste and Geoff Diehl relative to treble damages for certain employees for any damages incurred, lost wages and other benefits. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to treble damages.

*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 2014  
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.