

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1193**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul R. Feeney***

*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 manufacturing and factory worker protection from COVID-19.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>

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By Mr. Feeney, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1193) of Paul R. Feeney, Christopher Hendricks, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Jonathan D. Zlotnik and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to manufacturing and factory worker protection from COVID-19. Labor and Workforce Development.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to manufacturing and factory worker protection from COVID-19.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide protection to the Commonwealth’s manufacturing workforce, as they are at an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 due to work that cannot be performed remotely and puts workers in close proximity with others, often touching many of the same surfaces and sharing tools, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and 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. For the purposes of this act, the following words shall, unless the context  
2 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

3           “Close contact”, living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for  
4 COVID-19; caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19; being within 6 feet of a  
5 person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for approximately 15 minutes; coming in direct  
6 contact with secretions, for example the sharing of utensils or being coughed on, of a person who  
7 has tested positive for COVID-19 while that person was symptomatic; or similar contact as  
8 determined by the department of public health.

9           “Employee” or “worker”, an individual employed in a manufacturing capacity in the  
10 commonwealth.

11           “Local COVID-19 contact”, an employee of a local board of health designated by said  
12 board as the point of contact for reporting and COVID-19 information.

13           “Personal protective equipment”, equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that  
14 cause illnesses, including masks, gloves, gowns and face shields.

15           “Potential COVID-19 symptoms”, signs of a fever, a measured temperature above 100.3  
16 degrees or greater, a cough or trouble breathing.

17           SECTION 2. (a) Prior to starting a shift, each employee shall self-certify to their  
18 supervisor that they (i) have no potential COVID-19 symptoms within the past 24 hours; (ii)  
19 have not had close contact and; (iii) have not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by their  
20 doctor or a local public health official.

21           (b) Employees unable to self-certify shall be directed to leave the location and seek  
22 medical attention and applicable testing by their health care provider. Employees directed to  
23 leave shall not return to work until cleared by a medical professional.

24           (c) Employers shall grant no less than 14 days of paid sick leave to any employee self-  
25 reporting potential COVID-19 symptoms or close contact, even if testing availability is limited  
26 or workers are awaiting results.

27           (d) Medical professionals or trained individuals as defined by the department of public  
28 health shall temperature screen employees who work in a confined space or inside a closed

29 building envelope, provided that such screenings are out of view of all other employees and  
30 results are kept private.

31 (e) In the event that an employee affiliated with a union self-reports potential COVID-19  
32 symptoms, close contact or a positive test for COVID-19, the employer shall notify the  
33 designated representative for said union.

34 SECTION 3. (a) Workers shall remain not fewer than 6 feet apart from one another at all  
35 times to eliminate the potential of cross contamination.

36 (b) If workers are unable to remain not fewer than 6 feet apart from one another, each  
37 shall wear personal protective equipment and employers shall adopt new procedures to allow for  
38 more social distancing between workers. New procedures may include, but are not limited to, the  
39 slowing of assembly lines.

40 (c) Employers shall, to the extent practicable, utilize engineering controls to reduce  
41 potential exposure. Such engineering controls may include, but are not limited to, installation of  
42 high-efficiency air filters, increase in ventilation rates, and construction of physical barriers.

43 (d) Employee shifts, breaks and lunches shall be staggered to minimize unnecessary  
44 congregation and allow for cleaning and disinfecting.

45 SECTION 4. Employers shall provide all employees with personal protective equipment  
46 consistent with U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
47 guidance, to wear during their shifts.

48 SECTION 5. (a) Employers shall display laminated COVID-19 safety guidelines and  
49 handwashing instructions above all sinks.

50 (b) All restroom facilities shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly. All handwashing  
51 stations shall be stocked with soap, hand sanitizer and paper towels at all times

52 (c) All surfaces shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly and between shifts, including  
53 but not limited to machinery, workspaces, door handles, light switches, keyboards, phones and  
54 high touch points.

55 (d) All common areas and meeting areas, as determined by employers, shall be cleaned  
56 and disinfected not less than once per day.

57 (e) Employers shall, to the extent practicable, utilize disinfectants listed by the  
58 Environmental Protection Agency as qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2.

59 (f) The department of public health shall promulgate regulations consistent with this act  
60 relative to additional safety guidance, facility cleaning and disinfecting requirements and to  
61 implement to requirements of this act.

62 SECTION 6. (a) Each local health department shall designate a local COVID-19 contact.

63 (b) In the event that any employee self-reports potential COVID-19 symptoms, close  
64 contact or a positive test for COVID-19 to an employer, the employer shall notify the relevant  
65 local COVID-19 contact.

66 (c) In the event that any employee self-reports potential COVID-19 symptoms, close  
67 contact or a positive test for COVID-19 to a local health board, the local COVID-19 contact shall  
68 notify the relevant employer.

69 (d) In the event that any employee self-reports potential COVID-19 symptoms, the  
70 employer shall follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for cleaning  
71 and disinfecting the building or facility where the employee worked.

72 SECTION 7. (a) Employers shall, to the extent practicable, promptly identify and isolate  
73 potentially infectious employees and exposed coworkers and open outside doors and windows to  
74 increase air circulation to areas used by the employee. After 24 hours or as close to 24 hours as  
75 practicable of such identification and isolation, employers shall thoroughly clean and disinfect all  
76 areas and surfaces used by said employee. If more than 7 days have elapsed since the employee  
77 visited or used the facility, the employer need engage only in routine cleaning and disinfection  
78 pursuant to this act.

79 (b) Following identification of a potentially infectious employee at the facility, the local  
80 COVID-19 contact shall determine if the workplace is suitably safe for employees to return.

81 (c) The local COVID-19 contact shall recommend closure of a facility for more than 24  
82 hours to the state government if they find the workplace to be unsuitable for employees to return.