

HOUSE No. 1732

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to unemployment insurance reform.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>George N. Peterson, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Viriato Manuel deMacedo</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>Randy Hunt</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>
<i>Nicholas A. Boldyga</i>	<i>3rd Hampden</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Donald H. Wong</i>	<i>9th Essex</i>
<i>Daniel B. Winslow</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>

<i>James J. Lyons, Jr.</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Peter J. Durant</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>Kevin J. Kuros</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Matthew A. Beaton</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>

HOUSE No. 1732

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1732) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others relative to unemployment insurance reform. Labor and Workforce Development.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE

□ □ HOUSE
□ , NO. 2300 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to unemployment insurance reform.

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. Subsection (i) of section 14 of chapter 151A, as appearing in the 2010
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out paragraph (1) and inserting in place thereof
3 the following paragraph:

4 With respect to calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, the experience rate
5 of an employer qualifying therefore under subsection (b) shall be the rate which appears in the
6 column headed by the unemployment compensation reserve percentage as of the applicable
7 computation date and on the line with the applicable employer account reserve percentage as set
8 forth in the experience rate table:

9 SECTION 2. Paragraph (2) of subsection (i) of section 14 of said chapter 151A is hereby
10 repealed.

11 SECTION 3. Section 14G of said chapter 151A is hereby repealed.

12 SECTION 4. Paragraph (a) of Section 24 of said chapter 151A is hereby amended by
13 striking out in its entirety said paragraph and inserting in place thereof a new paragraph:

14 (a) Have been paid wages in the base period amounting to at least forty times the weekly
15 benefit rate; provided, however, that for the period beginning on January first, nineteen hundred
16 and ninety-five the individual has been paid wages in at least two quarters of the base period
17 amounting to at least thirty times the weekly benefit rate; provided, further, that said amount
18 shall be increased annually proportionately, rounding to the nearest one hundred dollars, to any
19 increases which have occurred during the prior calendar year in the minimum wage as set forth
20 in section one of chapter one hundred and fifty-one; and, provided further, that any such increase
21 shall be effective beginning on the first Sunday in January.

22

23 SECTION 5. Section 30 of said chapter 151A is hereby amended by striking out
24 subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:

25 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the total benefits which an
26 unemployed individual may receive during his benefit year shall be an amount equal to thirty-six
27 percent of his wages in the base period, or an amount equal to thirty times his benefit rate,
28 whichever is less, plus dependency benefits payable under section 29; provided, that if in any
29 month the average state-wide unemployment rate for the prior 6 months, as determined by the
30 United States Department of Labor, is equal to or below 5.1 percent, the total benefits which an
31 unemployed individual who then files a claim may receive during his benefit year shall be an
32 amount equal to 36 per cent of his wages in the base period or an amount equal to 26 times his
33 benefit rate, whichever is less, plus dependency benefits payable under said section 29. If such
34 amount includes a fractional part of a dollar, it shall be rounded to the next lower full dollar
35 amount

36 SECTION 6. All proceeds accumulated in the Medical Security Trust Fund on the date
37 of dissolution, shall be deposited in the unemployment insurance trust fund.