

HOUSE No. 2528

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kay Khan, (BY REQUEST)

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 sales tax exemptions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

David Snieckus

HOUSE No. 2528

By Ms. Khan of Newton (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2528) of David Snieckus relative to the taxation of whole natural food for human consumption and establishing a prevention and wellness trust fund. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to sales tax exemptions.

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 (h) of section 6 of chapter 64H of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and
3 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

4 Sales of whole natural nature food for human consumption. "Whole natural nature food"
5 shall mean plant foods including grains, vegetables, beans, herbs, nuts, seeds, and fruit, directly
6 from nature without any processing or genetic modification. "Whole natural nature food" does
7 include any raw agricultural commodity that has been subject to washing and cleaning. Food
8 subject to any milling, cutting, chopping, heating, pasteurizing, blanching, cooking, canning,
9 freezing, drying, dehydrating, mixing, packaging, added additives, in particular, chemicals that
10 alter the food from its natural nature state are not exempt from taxation.

11 SECTION 2. Revenues collected from the taxation of processed foods shall be
12 specifically designated to a special subset of the fund called the Prevention and Wellness Trust

13 Fund. This fund will have a specific subset fund and Task Force for the education and
14 dissemination of information on the benefits of eating whole natural nature foods to the
15 population of Massachusetts

16 SECTION 3. A Whole Natural Nature Food Education Task Force shall be convened no
17 later than September 1, 2019 for the purpose of educating the public on the use of whole natural
18 nature foods. This includes a review of the role of farmers, chefs and cooks. The task force shall
19 consist of the following stakeholders:

20 (a) Farmers from every Legislative District in Massachusetts who grow the natural
21 nature whole foods. Districts without farms can designate a supplier or retailer of whole natural
22 nature foods.

23 (b) Cooks who specialize in whole natural nature foods cooking.

24 (c) The Secretary of state, or the secretary's designee

25 (d) The House president or a designee, the Speaker of the House or a designee, and the
26 two chairs of the Joint Committee on Revenue or their designees;

27 (e) One member chosen by the Governor from a list of three names submitted by the
28 Whole Natural Nature Food Education Task Force.

29 (f) Three parents who have a knowledge of whole natural nature foods jointly selected
30 by the Task Force

31 (g) Additionally, three students from the each of the Colleges shall serve on this task
32 force. Said students should be chosen to represent various school districts across the
33 Commonwealth.

34 SECTION 4. The initial meeting of the Task Force shall be solely to understand the
35 reasons to encourage whole natural nature food selection, cooking, and eating. Subsequent
36 meetings will be held for the purpose of understanding mainly whole plant food, the history of
37 plant food, how natural nature food is created, and how best to change our current processed
38 food system into an honest, whole food based system.

39 a. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 60 days of the effective date of
40 this act. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the
41 original appointments. Members of the task force shall serve at least 10 hours per month with
42 compensation of \$12,000 per year. Increases follow cost of living statistics.

43 b. The task force shall organize as soon as practically possible following the appointment
44 of its members, but no later than 60 days after the appointment of its members. There shall be
45 two co-chairs, one elected by the members designated in Section (3)(a),(b),(c), (d), and the
46 second elected by the members in Sections 3 (e),(f), and (g).

47 SECTION 5. Section 2G(a) of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
48 hereby amended by deleting the following:

49 “The fund shall consist of revenues collected by the Commonwealth including: (1) any
50 revenue from appropriations or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically
51 designated to be credited to the fund; (2) any fines and penalties allocated to the fund under the
52 General Laws; (3) any funds from public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations
53 to further community-based prevention activities; (4) any interest earned on such revenues; and
54 (5) any funds provided from other sources.”

55 And shall be further amended by inserting in its place the following:

56 “The fund shall consist of revenues collected by the Commonwealth including: (1) any
57 revenue from appropriations or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically
58 designated to be credited to the fund; (2) all monies received by the Commonwealth as excises
59 upon the sale of any raw agricultural commodity that has been subject to milling, cutting,
60 chopping, heating, pasteurizing, blanching, cooking, canning, freezing, drying, dehydrating,
61 mixing, packaging, added additives, particularly chemicals that alter the food from its natural
62 nature state as defined by the provisions of chapter 64H; (3) any fines and penalties allocated to
63 the fund under the General Laws; (4) any funds from public and private sources such as gifts,
64 grants, and donations to further community-based prevention activities; (5) any interest earned
65 on such revenues; and (6) any funds provided from other sources.