

HOUSE No. 3546

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf

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 streamlining and simplifying permitting and compliance processes for small businesses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>

<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>RoseLee Vincent</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 3546

By Mr. LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3546) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf and others for legislation to establish an online portal that serves as a single, unified entry point for small business owners to access and complete initial and ongoing state services and requirements in relation to the creation or ongoing operation of a small business located in the Commonwealth. Community Development and Small Businesses.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to streamlining and simplifying permitting and compliance processes for small businesses.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 9 of the General Laws hereby amended by adding the following section:–

2 Section 32. (a) There is hereby established a one-stop small business online portal for
3 small businesses in the commonwealth. The state secretary, the executive offices of
4 administration and finance, education, energy and environmental affairs, health and human
5 services, housing and economic development, labor and workforce development, public safety
6 and security, technology services and security, transportation and public works and the
7 department of revenue shall jointly establish a one-stop small business online portal that shall
8 serve as a single, unified entry point for small business owners to access and complete initial and
9 ongoing state services and requirements in relation to the creation or ongoing operation of a
10 small business located in the commonwealth. The agencies identified in this subsection shall
11 coordinate, manage and implement the portal based on the results of an assessment conducted by

12 the one-stop small business online portal advisory committee under this section. For the purposes
13 of this section the term small business shall mean a business entity or agriculture operation,
14 including its affiliates, that: (i) is independently owned and operated; (ii) has a principal place of
15 business in the commonwealth; and (iii) would be defined as a “small business” under applicable
16 federal law, as established in the United States Code and promulgated from time to time by the
17 United States Small Business Administration.

18 (b) The one-stop small business online portal advisory committee is hereby established to
19 provide guidance in the creation and implementation of the one-stop small business online portal.
20 The committee shall consist of the state secretary, the secretaries of administration and finance,
21 education, energy and environmental affairs, health and human services, housing and economic
22 development, labor and workforce development, public safety and security, technology services
23 and security, transportation and public works and the commissioner of the department of
24 revenue. The governor shall have the discretion to appoint other members to the committee. The
25 committee shall be co-chaired by the state secretary and the secretary of administration and
26 finance.

27 (c) The one-stop small business online portal advisory committee shall prepare an
28 assessment detailing recommendations for the creation, ongoing operation and management of
29 the one-stop small business online portal, to be presented to the governor, the state secretary and
30 the general court by December 31, 2019. This assessment shall include the following:

31 (i) An estimate of the costs for full implementation of the portal, including those
32 associated with technology, maintenance, sharing agency data, information security and other
33 start-up costs;

34 (ii) An estimate of the costs of establishing and maintaining a call center staffed with
35 persons trained to answer questions and help businesses obtain information and services, along
36 with a recommendation as to where the call center should be located and the number of staff
37 necessary to operate it;

38 (iii) Recommendations on the location, design and functionality of the portal;

39 (iv) Recommendations as to the roles of the state agencies identified in subsection (a)
40 regarding the day-to-day operational management of the portal;

41 (v) Recommendations on the time line for developing and testing the portal;

42 (vi) Identification of any statutory or regulatory changes that need to be made to
43 existing law to effectuate the portal's functionality;

44 (vii) Identification of other state agencies that possess small business-related functions
45 and content so that those functions can be added to the portal;

46 (viii) Identification of any impediments posed by federal law and recommended ways
47 to address the impediment;

48 (ix) A comprehensive analysis of the processes of all state agencies, with a view
49 toward streamlining and reducing the paperwork necessary for small businesses to interact with
50 each agency; and

51 (x) Recommendations on the scope of services to be provided by the portal. At a
52 minimum, services shall include:

53 (1) Application and renewal of small business-related licenses and fees incident to the
54 start-up and operation of a small business;

55 (2) Online payment of taxes and related costs imposed by state law incident to the
56 operation of a small business;

57 (3) Filing of documents and papers imposed by state law associated with the
58 operation of a small business;

59 (4) Creation of individual online accounts for each small business, which allows the
60 small business to monitor its filings, payments, deadlines and other business-compliance
61 activities;

62 (5) Providing information regarding compliance with local requirements; and

63 (6) Notification of public contracting opportunities and resources for technical
64 assistance for small businesses.

65 (d) The one-stop small business online portal advisory committee shall:

66 (i) Ensure that the portal has a web site and the ability to process new business
67 registrations as handled by the state secretary's office, and will be in a testing phase for the
68 department of revenue's tax registration application by December 31, 2020; and

69 (ii) Ensure that subsequent and additional online small business applications
70 maintained by the commonwealth shall be evaluated and prioritized.