

SENATE No. 432

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Walter F. Timilty

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 establishing a pilot program to promote restaurant recovery and food security for seniors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>

SENATE No. 432

By Mr. Timilty, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 432) of Walter F. Timilty and Susannah M. Whipps for legislation to establish a pilot program to promote restaurant recovery and food security for seniors. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a pilot program to promote restaurant recovery and food security for seniors.

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

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary and subject to appropriation,
2 the executive office of housing and economic development, in conjunction with the department
3 of transitional assistance and the department of elder services, shall establish a pilot program for
4 the duration of the state of emergency issued on March 10, 2020, to provide prepared meals to
5 qualifying individuals who are aged 60 and above, through a partnership with private restaurants
6 in the Commonwealth.

7 The pilot program shall foster economic recovery of restaurants and ensure individuals
8 who are at increased risk of suffering complications from COVID-19 as defined by the Centers
9 for Disease Control and Prevention and are eligible for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance
10 Program, remain food secure during the state of emergency.

11 The pilot program shall determine eligibility of participants via the department of
12 transitional assistance utilizing Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program data. The pilot

13 program, in conjunction with the councils on aging, shall provide outreach to eligible individuals
14 to enroll participants. During outreach, participants shall be screened to determine if they are at
15 increased risk of suffering complications from COVID-19 as defined by the Centers for Disease
16 Control and Prevention.

17 To qualify as a participant, restaurants shall require economic assistance during the state
18 of emergency. The pilot program shall determine eligibility of restaurant participants via the
19 executive office of housing and economic development, in conjunction with the Massachusetts
20 Growth Capital Corporation COVID-19 Small Business Program, by providing outreach to
21 restaurant applicants to the COVID-19 Small Business Program. If the pilot program is unable to
22 identify restaurant participants from the applicants to the COVID-19 Small Business Program,
23 the executive office of housing and economic development shall establish a list of qualifications,
24 generate an application for restaurants to apply for participation in the pilot program, and
25 establish a website to promote application to said pilot program.

26 The pilot program shall promote geographic diversity of restaurant participants by
27 selecting restaurant participants from across the Commonwealth. The pilot program shall
28 reimburse restaurants for costs associated with preparation and packaging of meals.

29 The executive office of housing and economic development, in conjunction with the
30 department transitional assistance and the department of elder affairs, shall report not later than 6
31 months after the effective date of this act and annually thereafter to the house and senate
32 committees on ways and means, the joint committee on economic development and emerging
33 technologies, the joint committee on elder affairs, and the joint committee on public health,
34 the results of the pilot program and any identified barriers and challenges to establishing said

35 program, pilot program expenditures, and data relating to the number of individual participants,
36 restaurant participants, and meals served, the types of meals provided, and geographic location of
37 pilot program participants.