

SENATE No.

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael O. Moore and New England Police Benevolent Association for legislation relative to emergency hazard health duty. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to emergency hazard health duty.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to maintain the health and safety of the Commonwealth's first responders, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety and health.

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, rule or regulation to the contrary, any public
2 safety official, which shall include any individuals employed as police, fire personnel, correction
3 officers, dispatchers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, nursing professionals, and all
4 individuals employed and considered as 1st responders, who contract, have symptoms of, or
5 otherwise becomes affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19), that results in a period of
6 hospitalization, quarantine, or require self-quarantined measures as a result of being infected or
7 coming into contact with someone who is infected with this virus, shall have their medical
8 condition or incapacity to work presumed to be work-related.

9 The amount of time said public safety official is incapacitated or unable to perform their
10 duties as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection or exposure and the required time of
11 hospitalization, time of quarantine or time of self-quarantine shall be considered as on duty time,
12 and said public safety official shall not be required to use sick time, vacation time, personal time
13 or any other contractual time-off to cover said period of incapacitation or inability to perform
14 regular duty work. This time of incapacitation or inability to perform their duties shall be
15 considered as “emergency hazard health duty”.