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SENATE No. 2472

Senate, June 10, 2021– Text of the Senate Bill relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency (being the text of Senate, No. 2467, printed as amended)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to extend certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 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	SECTION 1	. Section 1.	3 of chapte	r 53 of the acts	of 2020, as a	mended by s	section 1	of

- 2 chapter 118 of the acts of 2020, is hereby further amended by striking out the words "February
- 3 28, 2021" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- March 1, 2022.
- 4 SECTION 2. Paragraph (a) of section 14 of said chapter 53, as amended by section 68 of
- 5 chapter 227 of the acts of 2020, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word
- 6 "emergency" the following words:- or during a period ending on December 15, 2021, whichever
- 7 period ends later.
- 8 SECTION 3. Section 15 of said chapter 53 is hereby amended by striking out the words 9 "and 60 days thereafter" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- or until December 10 15, 2021, whichever is later.

SECTION 4. Section 16 of said chapter 53 is hereby amended by striking out the words
"and 60 days thereafter and" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- or until
December 15, 2021, whichever is later, and.

SECTION 5. Section 2 of chapter 65 of the acts of 2020 is hereby amended by striking
out the words "the termination of the COVID-19 emergency, due to the outbreak of the 2019
novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19" and inserting in place thereof the following
words:- December 15, 2021.

18 SECTION 6. Section 8 of chapter 71 of the acts of 2020 is hereby amended by striking
19 out the words "3 business days after termination of the governor's March 10, 2020 declaration of
20 a state of emergency" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- on December 15,
21 2021.

SECTION 7. Section 7 of chapter 92 of the acts of 2020 is hereby amended by striking
out the words "emergency at" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- or during a
period ending on December 15, 2021, whichever period ends later, at.

SECTION 8. Section 8 of said chapter 92 is hereby amended by inserting after the word
 "emergency" the following words:- or during a period ending on December 15, 2021, whichever
 period ends later.

28 SECTION 9. Section 2 of chapter 118 of the acts of 2020 is hereby amended by striking
29 out the words "February 28, 2021" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- March 1,
30 2022.

31 SECTION 10. Subsection (a) of chapter 255 of the acts of 2020, as amended by section 4 32 of chapter 5 of the acts of 2021, is hereby further amended by striking out the words "annual or 33 special municipal or state primary or election held on or before June 30, 2021" and inserting in 34 place thereof the following words:- regular or special municipal or state preliminary, primary or 35 general election held on or before December 15, 2021.

36 SECTION 11. Subsection (b) of said chapter 255, as amended by section 5 of said 37 chapter 5, is hereby further amended by striking out the words "annual or special municipal or 38 state primary or election held on or before June 30, 2021" and inserting in place thereof the 39 following words:- regular or special municipal or state preliminary, primary or general election 40 held on or before December 15, 2021.

SECTION 12. Subsection (c) of said chapter 255, as amended by section 6 of said chapter 5, is hereby further amended by striking out the words "annual or special municipal or state primary or election held on or before June 30, 2021" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- regular or special municipal or state preliminary, primary or general election held on or before December 15, 2021.

SECTION 13. Subsection (1) of said chapter 255, as amended by section 7 of said
chapter 5, is hereby further amended by striking out the words "annual or special municipal
election held on or before June 30, 2021" and inserting in place thereof the following words:regular or special municipal preliminary, primary or general election held on or before December
15, 2021.

51 SECTION 14. Subsection (a) of section 1 of chapter 257 of the acts of 2020 is hereby 52 amended by striking out the words "the termination of the state of emergency concerning the

outbreak of COVID-19 as declared by the governor on March 10, 2020" and inserting in place
thereof the following words:- the termination or nullification of the Temporary Halt in
Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19 Order issued by the federal
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

57 SECTION 15. Said section 1 of said chapter 257 is hereby further amended by striking 58 out subsection (a), as amended by section 14, and inserting in place thereof the following 59 subsection:-

60 (a) Notwithstanding section 11 or section 12 of chapter 186 of the General Laws, chapter 61 239 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, a notice to guit for 62 nonpayment of rent given in writing by a landlord to a residential tenant pursuant to said section 63 11 or said section 12 of said chapter 186 shall be accompanied by a form that shall include, but 64 not be limited to, information on: (i) rental assistance programs including, but not limited to, the 65 residential assistance for families in transition program; (ii) applicable trial court rules, standing 66 orders or administrative orders pertaining to actions for summary process; and (iii) any relevant 67 federal or state legal restrictions on residential evictions. The form shall also prominently display 68 the following statement:

69 "THIS NOTICE TO QUIT IS NOT AN EVICTION. YOU DO NOT NEED TO
70 IMMEDIATELY LEAVE YOUR UNIT. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A LEGAL PROCEEDING
71 IN WHICH YOU CAN DEFEND AGAINST THE EVICTION. ONLY A COURT ORDER
72 CAN FORCE YOU TO LEAVE YOUR UNIT."

The executive office of housing and economic development shall develop the form
required under this subsection and make it publicly available on its website. The information

shall be made available in the 5 most common languages in the commonwealth, in addition to
English. A court having jurisdiction over an action for summary process pursuant to said chapter
239, including the Boston municipal court department, shall not, in an eviction for nonpayment
of rent for a residential dwelling unit, accept for filing a writ, summons or complaint without
proof of delivery of the form required under this subsection.

80 SECTION 16. Subsection (b) of said section 1 of said chapter 257 is hereby amended by 81 striking out the words "from the passage of this act until the termination of the state of 82 emergency concerning the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease, also known as COVID-19, 83 declared by the governor on March 10, 2020,".

84 SECTION 17. Said section 1 of said chapter 257 is hereby repealed.

85 SECTION 18. Section 2 of said chapter 257 is hereby amended by inserting after the 86 word "emergency", the sixth and ninth times it appears, the following words:- or until April 1, 87 2022, whichever is later.

88 SECTION 19. Section 3 of said chapter 257 is hereby amended by inserting after the 89 word "emergency", the first time it appears, the following words:- or until January 1, 2023, 90 whichever is later.

91 SECTION 20. Section 79 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby amended by
92 striking out the words "90 days after termination of the governor's March 10, 2020 declaration of
93 a state of emergency" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- on December 15,
94 2021.

95 SECTION 21. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
96 governor shall provide notice to the clerks of the house of representatives and senate and the
97 house and senate committees on ways and means not less than 45 days before the termination of
98 the public health emergency declared by the governor on May 28, 2021 pursuant to section 2A of
99 chapter 17 of the General Laws in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of
public health shall provide notice to the clerks of the house of representatives and senate and the
house and senate committees on ways and means not less than 45 days before the termination of
any public health order established pursuant to section 2A of chapter 17 of the General Laws in
response to the public health emergency declared by the governor on May 28, 2021.

105 SECTION 22. (a) For the purposes of this section the following terms shall have the 106 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

107 "Carriers", all commercial health insurers, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts,
108 Inc. and health maintenance organizations as defined in section 1 of chapter 178G of the General
109 Laws.

110 "Division", the division of insurance established under section 1 of chapter 26 of the111 General Laws.

112 "Health Care Provider", shall have the same meaning as under section 1 of chapter 111113 of the General Laws.

(b) Notwithstanding chapter 260 of the acts of 2020 or any other general or special lawto the contrary, the group insurance commission and carriers regulated by the division shall:

(i) reimburse acute care hospital providers or other providers with which they contract,
but that do not participate in an insured's health plan, at the contracted rate for medically
necessary emergency or inpatient services provided to the insured for COVID-19 related
treatment, including all professional, diagnostic and laboratory services. Such payment shall
constitute payment in full and no health care provider shall be permitted to balance bill the
insured for any amount above the reimbursement paid by the carrier.

(ii) Reimburse acute care hospital providers or other providers with which they do not contract at a rate equal to 135 per cent of the reimbursement rate paid by Medicare in the provider's geographic region for medically necessary emergency or inpatient services provided to an insured for COVID-19 related treatment, including all professional, diagnostic and laboratory services, unless a carrier is directed otherwise by the division. Such payment shall constitute payment in full and no health care provider shall be permitted to balance bill the insured for any amount above the reimbursement paid by the carrier.

The commissioner of insurance shall issue guidance to implement this section. Any violation of the terms of the commissioner's guidance shall be a violation of the terms of this section. The division and the department of public health shall enforce the terms of this section and the commissioner's guidance.

- 133 SECTION 23. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
 134 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:
- 135 "Commission", the alcoholic beverages control commission.

136 "Outdoor table service", restaurant service that includes food prepared on-site and under
137 food permits issued by municipal authorities pursuant to 105 CMR 590.00 that is served to

seated diners outside the restaurant building envelope, whether on a sidewalk, patio, deck, lawn,parking area or other outdoor space.

140 (b) Notwithstanding chapter 40A of the General Laws, any special permit, variance or 141 other approval thereunder or any general or special law to the contrary, from the passage of this 142 act until April 1, 2022, a city or town may approve a request for expansion of outdoor table 143 service, including in the description of licensed premises as described in subsection (c), or an 144 extension of an earlier granted approval issued under section 4 of the governor's COVID-19 145 Order No. 35 or section 1 of the governor's COVID-19 Order No. 50. Before such approval, the 146 mayor, select board or other chief executive as established by charter or special act shall 147 establish the process for approving such requests. Such process shall not be required to comply 148 with the notice and publication provisions of section 11 of said chapter 40A. An approval under 149 this section may be exercised immediately upon filing of notice thereof with the city or town 150 clerk, without complying with any otherwise applicable recording or certification requirements.

(c) Pursuant to subsection (b), a local licensing authority may grant approval for a change in the description of the licensed premises for the purpose of permitting outdoor alcohol service as the local licensing authority deems reasonable and proper, and issue an amended license to existing license holders, without further review or approval from the commission prior to issuance. Upon approval of an amended license, the local licensing authority shall provide notice of the amended license to the commission. Nothing in this section shall prevent the commission from exercising the commission's enforcement authority over an amended license.

(d) Before approving any request to extend an earlier granted approval issued under
section 4 of the governor's COVID-19 Order No. 35 or section 1 of the governor's COVID-19

Order No. 50, a city, town or local licensing authority may modify the scope of the approval as the city, town or local licensing authority deems proper and appropriate including, but not limited to, modifying the terms of an earlier granted approval to address potential issues with snow removal, pedestrian traffic or similar concerns.

164 (e) Any outdoor table service approved for expansion under this section, including an 165 amended license issued by a local licensing authority under subsection (c), shall automatically 166 revert back to the status prior to the approval of the change for expansion of outdoor table 167 service or in the description of a licensed premises on April 1, 2022. Any extension of an earlier 168 granted approval issued under section 4 of the governor's COVID-19 Order No. 35 or section 1 169 of the governor's COVID-19 Order No. 50 shall automatically revert back to the status prior to 170 the approval issued under said section 4 of the governor's COVID-19 Order No. 35 or said 171 section 1 of the governor's COVID-19 Order No. 50 on April 1, 2022.

172 SECTION 24. (a) For the purposes of this section, "adequate, alternative means of public 173 access" shall mean measures that provide transparency and permit timely and effective public 174 access to the deliberations of the public body, including, but not limited to, providing public 175 access through telephone, internet, satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other 176 technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body while 177 those activities are occurring.

(b) Notwithstanding section 20 of chapter 30A of the General Laws or any general or
special law to the contrary, a public body, as defined in section 18 of said chapter 30A, shall not
be required to conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the
public; provided, however, that the public body shall ensure public access to the deliberations of

the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means of public access. Where allowance for active, real-time participation by members of the public is a specific requirement of a general or special law, regulation or a local ordinance or by-law, pursuant to which the proceeding is conducted, any adequate, alternative means of public access shall provide for such participation and shall be sufficient to meet such participation requirement.

187 A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is 188 unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the 189 proceedings of the municipal public body as those activities are occurring in real time may 190 instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording or other 191 comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable upon conclusion of the 192 proceedings. This paragraph shall not apply to proceedings that are conducted pursuant to a 193 general or special law, regulation or a local ordinance or by-law that requires allowance for 194 active participation by members of the public.

A public body shall offer its selected adequate, alternative means of public access to its
proceedings without subscription, toll or similar charge to the public.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (d) of section 20 of chapter 30A of the General Laws or
any other general or special law to the contrary, a public body may allow remote participation by
all members in any meeting of the public body and a quorum of the body and the chair shall not
be required to be physically present at a specified meeting location.

201 (d) A public body that elects to conduct its proceedings under this section shall ensure202 that any party entitled or required to appear before it shall be able to appear through remote

203 means, as if the party were a member of the public body and participating remotely as provided204 in subsection (b).

(e) All other provisions of sections 18 to 25, inclusive, of chapter 30A of the General
Laws and the attorney general's implementing regulations shall otherwise remain unchanged and
fully applicable to the activities of public bodies.

SECTION 25. Notwithstanding section 24B1/2 of chapter 112 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, collaborative drug therapy management may be allowed in ambulatory care clinics licensed pursuant to section 51 of chapter 111 of the General Laws if: (i) there is on-site or off-site supervision by the attending physician and a collaborating pharmacist; and (ii) it is approved by the ambulatory care clinic's medical staff executive committee or designee or medical director or designee.

214 SECTION 26. Section 25 is hereby repealed.

215 SECTION 27. Notwithstanding sections 80, 80A and 80B of chapter 112 of the General 216 Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, a student who graduated from a 217 registered nursing or practical nursing program approved by the board of registration in nursing 218 established under section 13 of chapter 13 of the General Laws or who is a senior nursing student 219 attending the last semester of a registered nursing or practical nursing program approved by the 220 board may practice nursing and shall not be subject to the prohibitions against the unlicensed 221 practice of nursing under said sections 80, 80A and 80B of said chapter 112; provided, however, 222 that: (i) the individual is employed by or providing health care services at the direction of a 223 licensed health care facility or a licensed health care provider; (ii) the individual is directly 224 supervised while providing health care services; (iii) the health care services are provided in

response to the COVID-19 outbreak; and (iv) the employing licensed health care facility or
licensed health care provider has verified that the individual is a graduate of a registered nursing
or practical nursing program approved by the board or that the individual is a senior nursing
student attending the last semester of a registered nursing or practical nursing program approved
by the board.

230 The board of registration in nursing shall issue guidance to implement this section,231 which shall include guidance regarding the appropriate supervision of nursing students.

232 SECTION 28. Notwithstanding section 9E of chapter 112 of the General Laws or any 233 other general or special law to the contrary, employers of physician assistants in good standing 234 may designate a new supervising physician for any physician assistant as necessary to maximize 235 health care provider availability and to respond to increased healthcare needs during the public 236 health emergency declared by the governor on May 28, 2021. A newly designated supervising 237 physician and re-assigned physician assistant shall not be required to prepare and sign 238 prescriptive practice or scope of practice guidelines for any reassignment; provided, however, 239 that the employer of a physician assistant shall maintain a record of: (i) the name and scope of 240 practice of the newly designated supervising physician; (ii) the newly designated supervising 241 physician's ascent to the supervisory role; and (iii) the dates during which the designation 242 applies. The prescriptive practice and scope of practice of a re-assigned physician assistant shall 243 be within the: (i) competence of the physician assistant, as determined by the newly designated 244 supervising physician; and (ii) scope of services for which the newly designated supervising 245 physician can provide adequate supervision to ensure that accepted standards of medical practice 246 are followed. For purposes of this section, "in good standing" shall include a license that is

subject to probation or non-disciplinary conditions, but shall not include a license that is revoked,cancelled, surrendered, suspended or subject to disciplinary restrictions.

249 SECTION 29. Section 28 is hereby repealed.

250 SECTION 30. (a) For the purposes of this section, "guidelines" shall mean the 251 Guidelines for Use of Space for Screening, Testing or Sample Collection of Patient Presenting 252 with possible COVID-19 Exposure or Illness as established in a memorandum prepared by the 253 department of public health's bureau of health care safety and quality and dated May 12, 2020.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a health clinic may use
space selected by the clinic on, adjacent to or reasonably proximate to the health clinic's
premises for testing of possible COVID-19 patients; provided, however, that the clinic shall
comply with the guidelines, as applicable, and receive any necessary local approvals required for
the erection and use of temporary structures.

259 SECTION 31. Notwithstanding any other general or special law or regulation to the 260 contrary, a pharmacist or pharmacy intern licensed by the board of registration in pharmacy and 261 in good standing with the board may administer methadone and buprenorphine as medication for 262 the treatment of opioid use disorder in federally certified and Bureau of Substance Addiction 263 Services licensed opioid treatment programs and certified acute treatment services pursuant to a 264 qualified practitioner's order; provided, however, that administration of methadone and 265 buprenorphine as medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder drugs shall be conducted in 266 accordance with federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 267 regulations, 42 CFR Part 8 and the policies and procedures established in accordance with 105

268 CMR 164.000 et seq; and provided further, that prior to administering drugs under this section, a
269 pharmacist or pharmacy intern shall receive training in federal confidentiality regulation.

270 SECTION 32. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
271 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

272 "Designated Massachusetts Military Division staff", military personnel who are certified273 by the United States Army as Combat Lifesavers.

274 "Medical assistant", a person who performs basic administrative, clerical and clinical
275 duties under the direct supervision of a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician
276 assistant.

277 "Phlebotomist", a person whose responsibilities include, but are not limited to: (i)
278 collecting blood samples from patients under the supervision of a licensed physician, nurse
279 practitioner or physician assistant; (ii) separating blood into different test tubes in order for it to
280 be used in medical tests; (iii) accurately labeling said tubes; and (iv) ensuring correct samples are
281 sent to the laboratory.

(b) Notwithstanding sections 16 and 265 of chapter 112 of the General Laws or any other
general or special law to the contrary, a podiatrist licensed pursuant to said section 16 of said
chapter 112, a phlebotomist, a medical assistant who otherwise does not meet the requirements to
administer vaccine pursuant to said section 265 of said chapter 112 and designated
Massachusetts Military Division staff may administer COVID-19 vaccines with emergency use
authorization from the United States Food and Drug Administration.

SECTION 33. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public health shall not require a notice of determination of need from any person, agency of the commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof seeking approval for a substantial capital expenditure, substantial change in service or transfer of site that is necessary to address COVID-19; provided, however, that any person seeking approval shall comply with all applicable guidance from the department of health.

SECTION 34. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of unemployment assistance shall continue to enforce the provisions of department's policy memorandum UIPP 2020.12 issued on October 8, 2020 as it applies to caregiver responsibilities and the adjudication of such claims until the expiration of section 4102(b) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Not less than 30 days prior to the discontinuation of any guidance or policy issued by the department that affects claimant eligibility or changes benefits eligibility, a claimant shall be notified in their preferred language and via their preferred method of

- 301 communication of the discontinuation.
- 302 SECTION 35. Section 22 is hereby repealed.

303 SECTION 36. Sections 24, 27, 30, 32 and 33 are hereby repealed.

304 SECTION 37. Section 31 is hereby repealed.

305 SECTION 38. Notwithstanding section 11 of chapter 19D of the General Laws or any 306 other general or special law to the contrary, until the termination of the public health emergency 307 declared by the governor on May 28, 2021 or until December 15, 2021, whichever is sooner: (i) a 308 nurse employed by an assisted living residence that is certified by the executive office of elder 309 affairs may provide skilled nursing care in accordance with valid medical orders if the nurse

310 holds a valid license to provide such care; (ii) an assisted living residence may retain residents 311 who require skilled care for more than 90 consecutive days; (iii) the staffing requirements in 651 312 CMR 12.06(5)(b) shall not apply; provided, however, that an assisted living residence ensures 313 that it has sufficient staffing at all times to meet the needs of the residents, as set out in guidance 314 issued by the executive office of elder affairs on April 2, 2020; and (iv) the training requirements 315 set out in 651 CMR 12.07 shall not apply; provided, however, that an assisted living residence 316 shall procure staff with adequate experience and provide on-the-job training to safely perform 317 their duties, as set out in said guidance. 318 SECTION 39. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the 319 following meanings unless context requires otherwise: "License", a license, registration, certificate or authorization. 320 321 "In good standing" a license that is current; provided, however, that "in good standing" 322 may include a license that is subject to probation or non-disciplinary conditions but shall not 323 include a license that is revoked, cancelled, surrendered, suspended or subject to disciplinary 324 restrictions. 325 "Health care providers", registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, advanced practice 326 registered nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, pharmacists, pharmacy 327 technicians, nursing home administrators, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, 328 perfusionists, genetic counselors, community health workers, emergency medical technicians,

- 329 social workers, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, licensed mental health counselors,
- 330 rehabilitation counselors, applied behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts, licensed school

331 psychologists, licensed alcohol and drug counselors, radiologic technologists, radiologist332 assistants and nuclear medicine advanced associates.

333 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, health care providers who 334 are licensed in another state who present to the corresponding licensing authority in the 335 commonwealth verification that such license is in good standing in the state where it was issued 336 shall be issued a corresponding license in the commonwealth that shall remain valid until the 337 termination of the public health emergency declared by the governor on May 28, 2021 or April 1, 338 2022, whichever is later. All health care providers licensed under this subsection may provide 339 services within the scope of practice authorized by the license in such profession, in-person in 340 the commonwealth and across state lines into the commonwealth using telemedicine where 341 appropriate.

342 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, physicians who are 343 licensed in another state who present to the board of registration in medicine a state license 344 verification form demonstrating to the satisfaction of the board that they are in good standing in 345 the other state shall be issued an emergency license in the commonwealth that shall remain valid 346 until the termination of the public health emergency declared by the governor on May 28, 2021 347 or April 1, 2022, whichever is later. All physicians licensed under this subsection may provide 348 services in-person in the commonwealth and across state lines into the commonwealth using 349 telemedicine where appropriate.

350 SECTION 40. Section 15 shall take effect upon the termination or nullification of the 351 Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19 Order 352 issued by the federal centers for disease control and prevention.

353	SECTION 41. Section 35 shall take effect January 1, 2022.
354	SECTION 42. Section 17 shall take effect on January 1, 2023.
355	SECTION 43. Section 26 shall take effect on April 1, 2022
356	SECTION 44. Section 29 shall take effect on April 1, 2022.
357	SECTION 45. Section 37 shall take effect on April 1, 2022 or 10 days following the
358	revocation of the United States declaration of a national emergency concerning the novel
359	coronavirus diseases, whichever is earlier.

360 SECTION 46. Section 36 shall take effect on April 1, 2022.