

By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, petition of Bruce J. Ayers relative to property tax relief for small business owners. Taxation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS.

*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. Chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 1996 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 section 5J, the following new section:—

4 Section 5K. With respect to each parcel of real property classi-  
5 fied as class three, commercial, in each city or town certified by  
6 the commissioner to be assessing all property at its full and fair  
7 cash valuation, and at the option of the board of selectmen or  
8 mayor, with the approval of the city council, there shall be an  
9 exemption equal to not more than ten percent of the average  
10 assessed value of all property classified as class three commercial  
11 property; provided, however, that such an exemption shall only be  
12 applied to property that is owned and occupied by a business that  
13 employed fifty persons or less in the year preceding the assess-  
14 ment date for the property; and provided further that such an  
15 exemption shall only apply to property with an assessed valuation  
16 below one million dollars. This exemption shall be in addition to  
17 any exemptions allowable under section five. The value of exemp-  
18 tions granted under this section shall be borne by the combined  
19 value of class three commercial property.

20 For the purpose of this section the determination of the number  
21 of persons employed by a business shall be based solely upon the  
22 information provided by the director of the division of employ-

23 ment and training pursuant to section sixty-four A of chapter one  
24 hundred fifty one A.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 151A of the General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 1996 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 section 64, the following new section:—

4 Section 64A. The director shall on or before July first of each  
5 year provide to the chairman of the board of assessors in each city  
6 and town a list of all employers located in said city or town with  
7 an average annual employment of fifty persons or less during the  
8 previous year. The list shall be confidential and shall be used only  
9 by the assessors or employees duly designated by the assessors for  
10 the purpose of determining eligibility for property tax exemptions  
11 pursuant to section five K of chapter fifty-nine.