



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

TODD M. SMOLA
REPRESENTATIVE
1ST HAMPDEN DISTRICT

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 124
TEL. (617) 722-2100
FAX: (617) 722-2390

www.reptoddsmla.org
Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov
Conor.Welch@mahouse.gov

BRIMFIELD • HOLLAND • PALMER
STURBRIDGE • WALES • WARE • WARREN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2021

Contact: Conor Welch
617-722-2100

Representative Smola supports temporarily extending certain COVID-19 policies

Continuation of outdoor dining, virtual meetings included in bill

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) joined with his House and Senate colleagues to temporarily extend several policy changes that were implemented during the COVID-19 state of emergency to assist municipalities, businesses and residents.

Senate Bill 2475, *An Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency*, was enacted by the House of Representatives on June 15 on a roll call vote of 150-10, and is now before Governor Charlie Baker for his review and signature. The bill represents a compromise negotiated by a six-member conference committee, which worked to reconcile the differences between earlier versions of the bill previously approved in both legislative branches.

Representative Smola said Senate Bill 2475 allows for several pandemic-related changes to continue through the end of this year, and in some cases into next year. For example, the bill:

- extends outdoor table service and outdoor alcohol service until April 1, 2022;
- extends the sale of cocktails “to go” in conjunction with food takeout orders until May 1, 2022, and requires the price of the alcohol to be the same whether it is consumed at the restaurant or off-premises;
- allows government bodies to continue to conduct meetings virtually until April 1, 2022, as long as members of the public can easily access the proceedings in real time and participate remotely;

- allows quorum requirements for Town Meetings to be reduced to not less than 10% of the normal quorum requirement, through December 15, 2021;
- requires landlords, until January 1, 2023, to include a form with a notice to quit for non-payment of rent that informs tenants about their rights in an eviction case and rental assistance options;
- extends virtual reverse mortgage counseling until December 15, 2021;
- allows notaries public to continue using electronic videoconferencing to perform acknowledgements, affirmations, and other acts until December 15, 2021; and
- allows public corporations, including non-profit corporations, to conduct shareholder meetings solely by means of remote communication until December 15, 2021.

The state of emergency has been in effect since March 10, 2020. With more than 4 million Massachusetts residents now fully vaccinated against the novel coronavirus, Governor Baker announced on May 17 that the state of emergency would officially end at midnight on June 15. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

###