

**Labor and Employment Alert**  
**March 18, 2020**

**MA Legislature Passes Relief Bill Waiving the One Week Waiting  
Period for COVID-19 Related Unemployment Claims**

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On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the Massachusetts Legislature passed significant legislation directing the Director of Unemployment Assistance to waive the one-week waiting period for any person making a claim for unemployment benefits related to COVID-19 circumstances. It was promptly signed by the Governor, thereby providing significant relief for workers affected by the current situation.

In particular, the Law states that “the director of unemployment assistance shall waive the one-week waiting period for any person making a claim for unemployment benefits who has become separated from work as a result of any circumstance relating to or resulting from the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus or ‘COVID-19’ or the effects of the Governor’s March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency.” The Law is retroactive to March 10, 2020 and will remain in effect for 90 days after the termination of the state of emergency.

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*This Client Alert was prepared by Kier Wachterhauser, and was reviewed with Kathryn Murphy, Nan O’Neill, and Sarah Spatafore. If you have any questions, please contact Kier Wachterhauser or the attorney assigned to your account, or call (617) 479-5000.*

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