HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3154 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2712

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act improving coordination of the youth workforce development system in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	*10th Hampden*
Paul Adams	*17th Essex*
Denise Andrews	*2nd Franklin*
Antonio F. D. Cabral	*13th Bristol*
Stephen R. Canessa	*12th Bristol*
Gailanne M. Cariddi	*1st Berkshire*
Michael A. Costello	*1st Essex*
Linda Dorcena Forry	*12th Suffolk*
Gloria L. Fox	*7th Suffolk*
Denise C. Garlick	*13th Norfolk*
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
Kevin G. Honan	*17th Suffolk*
John D. Keenan	*7th Essex*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Michael R. Knapik	
	☐ *[District]*
	☐

Peter V. Kocot	*1st Hampshire*
Christopher M. Markey	*9th Bristol*
Thomas M. McGee	*Third Essex and Middlesex*
Kevin J. Murphy	*18th Middlesex*
David M. Nangle	*17th Middlesex*
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	*12th Hampden*
Michael J. Rodrigues	*[District]*
John W. Scibak	*2nd Hampshire*
Todd M. Smola	*1st Hampden*
Christopher N. Speranzo	*3rd Berkshire*
William M. Straus	*10th Bristol*
David B. Sullivan	*6th Bristol*
Benjamin Swan	*11th Hampden*
David M. Torrisi	*14th Essex*
Martin J. Walsh	*13th Suffolk*

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By Ms. Coakley-Rivera of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2712) of Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera and others for the establishment of a youth solutions commission (inclucing members of the General Court) to review youth employment, education pathways and efforts to reduce violence and dropout rates in an integrated, coordinated and cost-effective manner. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act improving coordination of the youth workforce development system in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. A Youth Solutions Commission shall be established to identify youth workforce best practices and programs nationwide and to evaluate programs currently supported by the commonwealth.

The commission shall consist of 30 members 1 of whom shall be the secretary of labor and workforce development, or his designee, who shall serve as chair; 1 of whom shall be the secretary of education, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of higher education, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of social services, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of youth services, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of transitional assistance, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of mental health, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the president of the Commonwealth Corporation, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of public health, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the chair of the house committee on ways and means, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the chair of the senate committee on ways and means, or his designee; 2 of whom shall be the chairs of the joint committee on education, or their designees; 1 of whom shall be a member to be appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and 12 of whom shall be appointed by the secretary of labor and workforce development, 2 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Workforce Board Association; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Workforce Professionals Association; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; 1 of whom shall be a

23 representative of the Massachusetts Community Action Network; 1 of whom shall be a
24 representative of YouthBuild; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Center for Labor
25 Market Studies at Northeastern University; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
26 Massachusetts AFL/CIO; 1 of whom shall be a representative selected from a list of 3 nominees
27 proposed jointly by the Massachusetts Dropout Prevention Commission; and 3 of whom shall be
28 experienced in successful youth workforce program efforts including, without limitation: public
29 schools, the nonprofit sector, law enforcement or municipally-administered after-school and
30 recreation programs.

31 SECTION 2. The Youth Solutions Commission will be responsible for reviewing
32 existing program strategies in youth employment, education pathways and efforts to reduce
33 violence and dropout rates in an integrated, coordinated and cost-effective manner. The
34 commission will propose adoption of policies, laws, regulations and/or other actions necessary to
35 establish an effective, youth workforce and education system in the Commonwealth through
36 specific strategies, agency and community coordination and collaboration and consistent
37 investments. The commission should seek to achieve the maximum level of coordination and co-
38 investment in each of the agencies named herein: private sector employers, and philanthropic
39 organizations in Massachusetts including a review of proven investment strategies including
40 school-to-career connecting activities, youth-at-risk programs for a year-round employment
41 program for youth in all workforce regions and grants for community safety initiatives.

42 SECTION 3. The commission shall examine and make recommendations on: (1) better
43 coordination between dropout prevention/recovery, alternative education, youth safety
44 initiatives, postsecondary education opportunities and summer and year-round youth
45 employment programs; (2) linking violence prevention programs with productive and enriching
46 education and employment programs; (3) youth transitions from summer employment to year-
47 round employment or an internship programs; (4) youth employment programs that have had
48 consistent success in increasing high school graduation rates for at-risk youth; (5) improved
49 connections between high schools and postsecondary education programs in high-demand sector
50 areas to be updated at least once in a twelve month period; and community colleges to four year
51 institutions through articulation agreements; (6) linkages between public-private organizations
52 and private employers so ensure youth have access to private sector jobs; (7) an apprenticeship
53 system with private sector employers including on-the-job training and employer tax incentives
54 or wage subsidies; (8) implementing the recommendations of the Massachusetts Graduation and
55 Dropout Prevention and Recovery Commission in Making the Connection, and the best practices
56 from Project Reconnect as a model to re-engage youth; (9) reviewing existing alternative
57 education program options, assessing the need for additional program approaches and making
58 recommendations to increase capacity for innovative programming to meet the needs of
59 disconnected youth; (10) examining policy to encourage after-school and out-of-school
60 programs to connect youth with community-based experiences outside of an educational setting;

61 (11) track the long-term effects of all youth employment and education programs through wage
62 record matching and graduation rate reporting

63 SECTION 4. The commission shall conduct its first meeting not less than 90 days after
64 the effective date of this act and shall conduct not less than 3 public hearings in geographically
65 diverse regions of the Commonwealth. The commission shall submit a report of its findings and
66 recommendations together with legislation, if any, to the clerks of the house of representatives
67 and the senate who shall forward the same to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee
68 on education and the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than
69 May 15, 2011.