HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2433 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 3106

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Benjamin Swan

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 to establish an office of youth development.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Benjamin Swan	*11th Hampden*
Gloria L. Fox	*7th Suffolk*
Byron Rushing	*9th Suffolk*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 3106

By Mr. Swan of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3106) of Benjamin Swan, Gloria L. Fox and Byron Rushing for legislation to establish an office of youth development within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *189* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to establish an office of youth development.

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. Whereas, analysis of current social and health status indicators indicate that an unacceptable number of urban youth are becoming involved in the criminal justice system, experiencing high rates of homicide and suicide, engaged in violence and anti-social behaviors, becoming abusers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, experiencing a high rate of pregnancies and sexual transmitted disease, and leaving school without marketable skills. There is clear and present danger that the current socio-economic status of this generation of urban youth will have a negative impact on the general well-being of the entire society of the Commonwealth; and Whereas, public schools have historically been in place as the above stated phenomenon developed, and in spite of the many changes implemented and proposed, do not present the model nor infrastructure needed to provide an appropriate model to ameliorate the situation with urban youth; and Whereas, the current negative social, economic and health status indicators for urban youth may be defined as predictors for negative future social and economic outcomes; and Whereas, violent behaviors, both as victim and perpetrators, substance abuse, teen pregnancy and infant mortality, sexual transmitted disease, delinquent behaviors, and suicide are clearly identified as public health concerns, Therefore, Notwithstanding any act to the contrary, this act provides that there shall be established within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, a state-wide office of youth development within the Department of Public Health which shall organize and implement pilot programs in Boston, Springfield, New

19 Bedford, Lawrence, Lowell, Holyoke, and Worcester to demonstrate a coordinated-
20 comprehensive youth development services delivery system to improve and promote good
21 citizenship among youth, between the ages of seven and eighteen. All programs and activities
22 shall be coordinated with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services organizations in
23 each city, so as to optimize the allocation of resources.

24 SECTION 2. Programs and activities shall be provided outside of school hours,
25 year-round, including weekends for individuals who are enrolled in school, with programs and
26 activities for individuals not enrolled in school available on a daily basis.

27 SECTION 3. Programs and activities shall be designed based on youth
28 development research findings, with emphasis directed toward the development and
29 enhancement of social decorum, anti-violent and anti-gang behaviors, positive social behaviors,
30 local and statewide labor pools, job opportunities and career and employment options,
31 citizenship and positive future outlook, community-building, the performing and creative arts,
32 avoiding teen-age pregnancies. With some components modeled after the pre-World War II
33 Work Project Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) the system shall
34 provide practical skill building beyond the theoretical approach used in public schools.

35 SECTION 4. Programs and activities shall be implemented through contracts with
36 federally qualified Section 330, Community Health Centers as defined by the U.S. Public Service
37 Act of 1965. Policy-makers and staff of contracting organizations shall reflect the participant
38 population of the program.

39 SECTION 5. The programs and activities shall include but not be limited to the
40 following: (1) a research component to address issues pertaining to replication of successful
41 strategies identified; (2) a community coordination function to assure that service delivery are
42 coordinated in order to limit any unwanted duplication and/or overlapping; (3) to document and
43 analyze resources and services targeted for the participant population; (4) identification of the
44 services needed to advance the goals of the program; (5) develop and/or join-in with a
45 community youth worker certification program, in order to utilize “best practices” in the field of
46 youth development, this component will further enhance skill development and standards for
47 youth development as a discipline; (6) an enhanced management information system support
48 procedure to develop a common intake and referral system to increase the use of preventive
49 services, share resource information, avoid duplication and to allow participants to engage in,
50 hands-on applications and learn state-of-the-art computer use; (7) court diversion; (8) coordinate
51 mini-grants to various community agencies; (9) coordinate with already established
52 organizations and agencies; and (10) develop needed services as required for the success of the
53 program.

54 SECTION 6. There is hereby established and set up on the books of the
55 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Office of Youth Development Fund. There

shall be credited to say fund an amount of $15 million dollars in the immediate fiscal year commonwealth's budget, and thereafter for a period of five (5) years, of which the amount of $2 million shall be earmarked for Springfield.