

SENATE No. 730

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act to establish a self sufficiency standard 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:

1 SECTION 1. Whereas, In today’s economy, employers face a shortage of skilled labor;

2 Whereas, Lower-wage workers do not earn enough to support their families;

3 Whereas, Lack of an adequately prepared workforce can cause employers to turn to
4 workers outside of the Commonwealth;

5 Whereas, A skilled labor shortage can have an impact on the economic strength of the
6 Commonwealth; and

7 Whereas, The poverty guidelines as measured by the federal government do not
8 adequately reflect the costs of living in Massachusetts;

9 Therefore, It shall be the responsibility of the Commonwealth to define a self-sufficiency
10 standard in order to provide a measure of the extent to which the incomes of households in
11 Massachusetts are sufficient to support the costs of living, working, raising a family, and paying
12 taxes in Massachusetts.