

SENATE No. 676

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to breaking generational cycles of poverty.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/6/2015</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	
<i>Daniel A. Wolf</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	
<i>Evandro C. Carvalho</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	

SENATE No. 676

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 676) of Michael O. Moore, Jose F. Tosado, Chris Walsh, Tricia Farley-Bouvier and other members of the General Court for legislation to create a transitional aid to families with dependent children career pathways trust fund. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3956 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)
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An Act relative to breaking generational cycles of poverty.

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. To provide for the cost of creating a career pathways work-study trust fund
2 and community college specialists positions in the department of transitional assistance for the
3 purposes of the trust fund established in section 5, the sums set forth in section 2 are hereby
4 appropriated subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year
5 ending June 30, 2015. These sums shall be in addition to any amounts previously appropriated
6 and made available for the purposes of those items.

7 SECTION 2.

8 COMMUNITY COLLEGES

9 7516-XXXX For the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund as established in section
10 2LLLL of chapter 29 of the General Laws, provided that the program shall be administered by
11 the Middlesex Community College through its entity, the Massachusetts Community College
12 Executive Office; provided, further, that no more than \$100,000 shall be used to administer the
13 program.....\$1,100,000

14 OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

15 Department of Transitional Assistance

16 4400-XXXX

17 For education opportunity coordinators established in section 5 of chapter 18 of the
18 General Laws to assist recipients of transitional aid to families with dependent children in
19 earning a community college certificate or two-year associate’s degree\$1,250,000”

20 SECTION 3. Paragraph (B) of section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as amended
21 by section 1 of chapter 65 of the acts of 2013, is hereby amended by adding the following 2
22 clauses:-

23 (m) take all necessary actions, including connecting individuals with education
24 opportunity coordinators established in section 5, to ensure that individuals receiving cash
25 assistance through transitional aid to families with dependent children may engage in community
26 college programs where assessment shows their chances of achieving long-term careers will
27 improve.

28 (n) annually file a report with the chairs of the joint committee on higher education, the
29 joint committee on children, families, and persons with disabilities, and the house and senate

30 committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to:- (1) information
31 regarding the efficacy of community college placements in developing careers for recipients of
32 cash assistance; (2) the number of recipients enrolled in certificate or two-year degree programs
33 at community colleges; (3) the number of recipients enrolled in a certificate or two-year degree
34 program receiving grants under the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund established in section
35 2LLLL of chapter 29; (4) graduation rates of recipients of cash assistance enrolled full time in a
36 certificate or two-year degree program; (5) employment rates of former recipients 6 months after
37 completing a degree or certificate program; and (6) employment rates of former recipients 1 year
38 after completing a degree or certificate program. No personal identifying information shall be
39 used in the report. The first report shall be filed on or before August 1 two years after said
40 TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund is established and annually, on or before August 1, after
41 that.

42 SECTION 4. Section 5 of said chapter 18, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding
43 the following paragraph:-

44 The commissioner shall establish education opportunity coordinator positions within the
45 department. The coordinators shall work with recipients of cash assistance through transitional
46 aid to families with dependent children who enroll in community colleges for the purpose of
47 earning a certificate or two-year degree. The coordinators shall work with recipients, community
48 colleges, and case managers. Coordinators shall provide focused assistance to recipients
49 including but not limited to developing career plans, identifying a program of study, accessing
50 financial aid and work study, and helping obtain other supports such as childcare and
51 transportation assistance. The commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding

52 with the community colleges to ensure coordinators execute the duties of this paragraph. Each
53 community college shall have at least 1 on-campus coordinator.

54 SECTION 5. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
55 section 2KKKK the following section:-

56 2LLLL. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a
57 separate fund to be known as the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as
58 the fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies
59 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited thereto. Middlesex
60 Community College, hereinafter referred to as the college, shall hold the fund in an account or
61 accounts separate from other funds or accounts; provided, however, that the fund shall be
62 administered by the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office. Appropriations
63 unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

64 (b) The fund shall be used to provide and fund employment opportunities for students
65 enrolled full time in a certificate or two-year associate's degree program at any community
66 college who receive cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children.

67 (c) Funds shall be expended to reimburse or pay students receiving cash assistance under
68 transitional aid to families with dependent children and enrolled full time in a certificate or two-
69 year associate's degree program at any community college, provided students may continue to
70 qualify for reimbursement or payment for up to 3 months after the student's cash assistance
71 under transitional aid to families with dependent children expires if the student is still
72 matriculated.

73 (d) Funds expended shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be for jobs at an off-campus
74 community service placement as defined in subsection (f), at the college the student attends, or
75 that provide career development opportunities.

76 (e) The share from funds distributed shall not exceed 80 percent of the total compensation
77 paid to students, with the exception of off-campus community service placements as defined in
78 subsection (f). Employers shall pay the costs of any employee benefits including all payments
79 due as an employer's contribution under the state workman's compensation laws, federal Social
80 Security laws, and other applicable laws. The federal work-study program shall not be used to
81 provide the employer's share of student compensation.

82 (f) An off-campus community service placement shall include direct service planning,
83 career development or applied research that is designed to improve the quality of life for
84 residents of the community served, particularly low-income residents, in such fields as health
85 care, child care, education, literacy training, welfare, social services, public safety, crime
86 prevention and control, transportation, recreation, housing and neighborhood improvement, rural
87 development, and community improvement. Placements shall be identified by the college
88 through formal or informal consultation with local nonprofit, governmental, and community-
89 based organizations.

90 The placement shall not be at an organization for whom a substantial portion of its
91 mission is political activities, including but not limited to electing candidates, influencing ballot
92 questions, and raising money for political campaigns.

93 (g) Students shall be paid the rate of pay as compared to entry-level salaries and wages
94 provided other employees engaged in similar work, provided total applicant resources shall be

95 considered to ensure to the maximum extent feasible that students may remain qualified for other
96 federal and state public assistance programs. The office may make reasonable adjustments to
97 salaries and wages to maximize a student's participation in other federal and state public
98 assistance programs.

99 (h) Funds shall not be expended under the program to compensate students for hours
100 worked in excess of an average of 20 hours per week over the period of enrollment or 40 hours
101 per week during vacation period. A student shall not be concurrently employed in the same
102 position by the fund and the federal work-study program and exceed the 20 hours per week
103 average.

104 (i) Students may receive academic credit for work experience gained through fund jobs.

105 (j) Students who fail to remain on target to graduate or earn a certificate in the regular
106 duration of a full-time student may no longer be eligible for monies from the fund, subject to the
107 discretion of the commissioner.

108 (k) Monies received from the Massachusetts TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund
109 established in Section 2LLLL of chapter 29 of the General Laws shall not count against a
110 recipient's income, assets, or any other eligibility standard in qualifying for cash assistance
111 benefits.

112 (l) The college and the board of higher education, hereinafter referred to as the board,
113 shall enter a memorandum of understanding to ensure that funds are properly expended and
114 disbursed. The college shall enter into agreements with employers, community colleges, the
115 department of transitional assistance, and others for the operation of the fund. These agreements

116 shall include such provisions as the office may deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the
117 purposes of this section. These agreements shall be made available to the board upon request.