

HOUSE No. 116

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul K. Frost

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 establishing the employability task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul K. Frost

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

7th Worcester

HOUSE No. 116

By Mr. Frost of Auburn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 116) of Paul K. Frost for legislation to establish a special task force (including members of the General Court) to review and report on the economic impact of welfare reform in the Commonwealth. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act establishing the employability task force.

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. There shall be a special task force to review and report on the economic impact
2 of welfare reform in the state of Massachusetts. The task force shall consist of 10 members: the
3 house and senate chairs of the joint committees on economic development and emerging
4 technologies and labor and workforce development, or their designees, who shall serve as the co-
5 chairs of the task force; a member of the general court appointed by the senate minority leader; a
6 member of the general court appointed by the house minority leader; the executive director of the
7 Massachusetts Workforce Development Board, or a designee; the executive director of the
8 RaiseUp Massachusetts, or a designee; and 2 persons to be appointed by the secretary of labor
9 and workforce development, 1 of whom shall be an employee of the commonwealth in the office
10 of the secretary of labor and workforce development, and 1 of whom shall be selected from the
11 Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Economic Development Council .

12 The task force shall: (i) identify and review the state laws, regulations, and administrative
13 directives that relate to welfare; (ii) review the connection between the low unemployment rate
14 as well as the current need for employees in key Massachusetts labor sectors and identify the
15 welfare minimum eligibility requirements potentially impeding employment; (iii) identify and
16 propose new welfare eligibility requirements based on updated economic and labor statistics; and
17 (iv) develop recommendations to establish legislative procedures that reduce citizens on welfare
18 while maintaining a low unemployment rate in the state of Massachusetts.

19 The task force shall submit a report, including any draft legislation and regulations, to the
20 clerks of the house of representatives and the senate within 12 months of the passage of this act.