

HOUSE No. 1220

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Higgins

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>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>

<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>

HOUSE No. 1220

By Ms. Higgins of Leominster, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1220) of Natalie M. Higgins and others 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. 2226 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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 specialist positions for the purposes of the trust fund established in
3 section 5, the sums set forth in section 2 are hereby appropriated subject to the laws regulating
4 the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. These sums shall be in
5 addition to any amounts previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of those
6 items. These sums shall be made available until June 30, 2021.

7 SECTION 2.

8 COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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

14 7516-XXXX For education opportunity coordinators established in section 22B
15 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, inserted by this act, to assist recipients of transitional aid to
16 families with dependent children in earning a community college certificate or two-year
17 associate’s degree..... \$1,250,000

18 SECTION 3. Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
19 after Section 22A the following new section:-

20 Section 22B. (a) Middlesex Community College shall establish education opportunity
21 coordinator positions, through its entity, the Massachusetts Community College Executive
22 Office. The coordinators shall work with recipients of cash assistance through transitional aid to
23 families with dependent children who enroll in community colleges across the state for the
24 purpose of earning a certificate or two-year degree. Each community college shall have at least 1
25 on-campus coordinator. Coordinators shall provide focused assistance to recipients, including
26 but not limited to developing career plans, identifying a program of study, accessing financial aid
27 and work study, and helping obtain other supports such as childcare and transportation
28 assistance. The coordinators shall work with recipients, community colleges, and case managers
29 at the department of transitional assistance. Middlesex Community College, through its entity,
30 the Massachusetts Community College Executive Office, shall enter into a memorandum of

31 understanding with the community colleges to ensure coordinators execute the duties of this
32 paragraph.

33 (b) Middlesex Community College, through its entity, the Massachusetts Community
34 College Executive Office, and in collaboration with the department of transitional assistance,
35 shall annually file a report with the chairs of the joint committee on higher education, the joint
36 committee on children, families, and persons with disabilities, and the house and senate
37 committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to:- (1) information
38 regarding the efficacy of community college placements in developing careers for recipients of
39 cash assistance; (2) the number of recipients enrolled in certificate or two-year degree programs
40 at community colleges; (3) the number of recipients enrolled in a certificate or two-year degree
41 program receiving grants under the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund established in section
42 2RRRR of chapter 29; (4) graduation rates of recipients of cash assistance enrolled in a
43 certificate or two-year degree program; (5) employment rates of former recipients 6 months after
44 completing a degree or certificate program; and (6) employment rates of former recipients 1 year
45 after completing a degree or certificate program. No personal identifying information shall be
46 used in the report. The first report shall be filed on or before August 1 two years after said
47 TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund is established and annually, on or before August 1, after
48 that.

49 SECTION 4. Paragraph (B) of section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as appearing
50 in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following clause:-

51 (t) take all necessary actions, including connecting individuals with education
52 opportunity coordinators established in section 22B of chapter 15A, to ensure that individuals

53 receiving cash assistance through transitional aid to families with dependent children may
54 engage in community college programs where assessment shows their chances of achieving
55 long-term careers will improve.

56 SECTION 5. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
57 section 2QQQQ the following section:-

58 2RRRR. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the
59 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund,
60 hereinafter referred to as the fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds
61 or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited
62 thereto. Middlesex Community College, hereinafter referred to as the college, shall hold the
63 fund in an account or accounts separate from other funds or accounts; provided, that the fund
64 shall be administered by the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office. Amounts
65 credited to the fund shall be used by the college, without further appropriation, to carry out the
66 purposes of the fund as set forth in this section. Any monies unexpended at the end of the fiscal
67 year shall remain in the fund and may be expended by the college without further appropriation.

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

71 (c) Both full-time and part-time students shall be eligible for funds under this section;
72 provided, that full-time students shall have first priority for funds; provided, further that a full-
73 time student shall not displace a part-time student, if the part-time student is already receiving
74 funds under this section.

75 (d) Funds expended shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be for jobs at: (1) the community
76 college; (2) an off-campus placement that provides career development opportunities that are
77 related to the student's course of study; or (3) an off-campus community service placement as
78 defined in subsection (f).

79 (e) The share from funds distributed shall not exceed 80 percent of the total compensation
80 paid to students, with the exception of jobs at the community college the student attends, or that
81 provide career development opportunities related to the student's course of study. Employers
82 shall pay the costs of any employee benefits, including all payments due as an employer's
83 contribution under the state workman's compensation laws, federal Social Security laws, and
84 other applicable laws. The federal work-study program shall not be used to provide the
85 employer's share of student compensation.

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

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

97 (g) Students shall be paid the rate of pay as compared to entry-level salaries and
98 wages provided other employees engaged in similar work, provided total applicant resources
99 shall be considered to ensure to the maximum extent feasible that students may remain qualified
100 for other federal and state public assistance programs. The office may make reasonable
101 adjustments to salaries and wages to maximize a student's participation in other federal and state
102 public assistance programs.

103 (h) Funds shall not be expended under the program to compensate students for
104 hours worked in excess of an average of 15 hours per week over the period of enrollment or 40
105 hours per week during vacation period. A student shall not be concurrently employed in the
106 same position by the fund and the federal work-study program and exceed the 15 hours per week
107 average.

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

110 (j) Monies received from the Massachusetts TAFDC Career Pathways Trust
111 Fund established in section 2R0000 of chapter 29 of the General Laws shall not count against a
112 recipient's income, assets, or any other eligibility standard in qualifying for cash assistance
113 benefits.

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

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