

HOUSE No. 1205

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul Brodeur

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 training tomorrow’s truck drivers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/18/2019</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

HOUSE No. 1205

By Mr. Brodeur of Melrose, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1205) of Paul Brodeur and David F. DeCoste that the Board of Higher Education be authorized to establish a program to support training and education programs that address the workforce shortages of truck drivers for the commercial transportation industry. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to training tomorrow’s truck drivers.

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. Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
2 shall be amended, after section 2VVVV, by inserting the following new section:-

3 Section 2WWWW. There shall be established and set upon the books of the
4 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Truck Driver Training Fund. The fund shall
5 be administered by the board of higher education. The fund shall be used to administer a
6 program to support training and education programs that address the workforce shortages of
7 truck drivers for the commercial transportation industry with the goal of training students,
8 creating new jobs, retaining and upgrading existing jobs, and retraining existing workers to
9 implement new technologies and to help meet the workforce needs of the trucking industry. The
10 fund shall be credited with all revenues collected from the surcharge imposed by section 8 of
11 chapter 90. The fund shall not be subject to section 5C of chapter 29.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 74 of the General Laws is hereby amended at the end thereof by
13 adding the following section:-

14 Section 58. The board of higher education shall establish and maintain, in cooperation
15 with local public and vocational school authorities, postsecondary technical schools and the
16 boards of trustees of community colleges, a program to support training and education programs
17 that address the workforce shortages of truck drivers for the commercial transportation industry
18 with the goal of training students, creating new jobs, retaining and upgrading existing jobs, and
19 retraining existing workers to implement new technologies and to help meet the workforce
20 needs of the trucking industry within the Commonwealth.

21 There shall be a grant program, funded by the Truck Driver Training Fund, to
22 implement this section to which employers shall have access to:

23 (i) identify, support or establish collaborative regional partnerships including, but not
24 limited to, employers, workforce development and education organizations, regional economic
25 development organizations established pursuant to sections 3J and 3K of chapter 23A and
26 economic development officials where a demand for truck drivers exists;

27 (ii) address critical workforce shortages for truck drivers in the commercial motor
28 transportation sector;

29 (iii) improve and increase employment opportunities for truck drivers in the
30 commercial motor transportation sector for low-income individuals, women, minorities and
31 veterans;

32 (iv) provide training and educational or career ladder services for employed or
33 unemployed truck drivers in the commercial motor transportation sector who are seeking new
34 positions or responsibilities within the industry;

35 (vi) boost industry-relevant instructor capacity for high school and postsecondary
36 programs; and

37 (vii) direct support for succession planning, worker retention and upskilling strategies
38 for older and incumbent workers.

39 For the purposes of the grant program, “eligible applicants” shall include, but not be
40 limited to: (i) employers and employer associations; (ii) local workforce investment boards; (iii)
41 institutions of higher education; (iv) kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, and vocational
42 education institutions; (v) private for-profit and nonprofit organizations providing education and
43 workforce training; (vi) 1-stop career centers; (vii) local workforce development entities; and
44 (viii) any partnership or collaboration between eligible applicants. Any funds allocated through
45 the program shall complement and not replace existing local, state, private or federal funding for
46 training and educational programs.

47 A grant proposal submitted pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to:

48 (i) a plan that defines specific goals for increasing the number of truck drivers in the
49 commercial motor transportation sector;

50 (ii) the evidence-based programs the applicant shall use to meet the goals;

51 (iii) a budget necessary to implement the plan, including a detailed description of any
52 funding or in-kind contributions that an applicant will be providing in support of the proposal;

53 (iv) any other private funding or private sector participation that the applicant
54 anticipates in support of the proposal; and

55 (v) the proposed number of individuals who would be enrolled, complete training and
56 be placed into employment within the trucking or related industries.

57 The board of higher education shall, in consultation with the executive office of
58 housing and economic development, executive office of labor and workforce development, the
59 department of education and entities representing parties who are eligible to participate in the
60 grant program, develop guidelines for an annual review of the progress being made by each
61 grantee. A grantee shall participate in any evaluation or accountability process implemented by
62 or authorized by the commonwealth corporation. The board shall file annual reports for the
63 duration of the programs with the chairs of the house and senate committee on ways and means,
64 the chairs of the joint committee on labor and workforce development and the chairs of the joint
65 committee on economic development and emerging technologies not later than January 1;
66 provided, however, that the report shall include an overview of the activities of the programs, the
67 number of participants in the programs and the employment outcomes in the programs.

68 SECTION 3. Section 8 of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
69 amended by inserting the following new paragraph at the end thereof:-

70 There shall be a surcharge of \$5 on all applications for licensure or renewal of a
71 commercial drivers license. The surcharge shall be transferred by the registrar of motor vehicles
72 to the state treasurer for deposit into the Truck Driver Training Fund established in section
73 2WWW of chapter 29.

74 SECTION 4. Section 8B of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
75 amended by inserting the following new paragraph at the end thereof:-

76 The registrar, in consultation with the board of higher education, shall provide
77 information to applicants who receive a learners' permit about careers as a truck driver and
78 diesel mechanic.