

HOUSE No. 4463

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 22, 2022.

The committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 273) of Chynah Tyler and others for legislation to establish a state-wide office of youth development within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 276) of Bud L. Williams for legislation to establish within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, a state-wide office of youth development, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4463) ought to pass.

For the committee,

MICHAEL J. FINN.

HOUSE No. 4463

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to establish an office of youth development.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, this act provides
2 that there shall be established within the Department of Public Health pilot programs serving
3 Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford,
4 Springfield and Worcester to demonstrate a coordinated, comprehensive youth development
5 services delivery system to improve and promote good health, life and academic outcomes
6 among youth. All programs and activities established or integrated by the pilot programs shall be
7 coordinated with Executive Office of Health and Human Services state agencies with other
8 youth-serving programs, agencies and funded programs in each city in order to optimize the
9 coordination and allocation of resources.

10 (b) Programs and activities shall be provided outside of school hours, year-round,
11 including weekends for individuals who are enrolled in school, with programs and activities for
12 individuals not enrolled in school available on a daily basis.

13 (c) Programs and activities shall be designed based on youth development research
14 findings, with emphasis directed toward the development and enhancement of social emotional
15 development, anti-violent and anti-gang behaviors, positive social behaviors, local and statewide
16 labor pools, job opportunities and career options, civic engagement, financial literacy, positive
17 future outlook, community-building, the performing and creative arts, and preventing teen-age
18 pregnancies.

19 (d) Pilot program staff and staff at contracting organizations shall reflect the participant
20 population of the program.

21 (e) The programs and activities provided by the pilot programs shall include but not be
22 limited to the following: (i) a research component to track outcomes and effectiveness of
23 program design and direct services, identify successful practices and make recommendations for
24 replication and scaling of successful practices, or modification of unsuccessful practices as
25 indicated by analysis; (ii) a community coordination function to assure that service delivery is
26 coordinated in order to limit unwanted duplication or overlapping; (iii) data collection to support
27 the research reference in item (i); (iv) identification of the services needed to advance the goals
28 of the program; (v) consideration of the impact of youth worker certification or credentialing on
29 both inputs to and outcomes of the youth participating in the pilot program (vi) an enhanced
30 management information system to support a common intake and data tracking systems to
31 increase the use of services, share resource information, avoid duplication and to allow
32 participants to engage in, hands-on applications and learn state-of-the-art computer use; (vii)
33 court diversion; (viii) mini-grants to community agencies; (ix) coordination with already-
34 established organizations and agencies; and (x) development of new services required for the

35 success of the program to the extent that program managers identify gaps in the existing direct
36 service landscape for youth.

37 (f) There is hereby established and set up an account with the department of public health
38 to be known as the Youth Development Fund. There shall be credited to said account an amount
39 sufficient to sustain such the pilot program herein described in fiscal year 2022 commonwealth's
40 budget, and thereafter for a period of 5 years. Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject
41 to further appropriation. Money remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year shall not
42 revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years. An
43 amount not to exceed \$100,000 shall be spent each year for each pilot program. The fund shall
44 be credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court
45 and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) interest earned on such revenues; and
46 (iii) funds from public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations. Annually, not later
47 than October 1, the department of public health shall report to the clerks of the house of
48 representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint
49 committee on children and families and persons with disabilities on the pilot programs'
50 activities.