

SENATE No. 1746

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan B. Lovely

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 the SMART plan.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Joan B. Lovely

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Essex

SENATE No. 1746

By Ms. Lovely, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1746) of Joan B. Lovely for legislation relative to the SMART plan. Public Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the SMART plan.

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. Section 64 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking, in line 31, the words “independent contractors”
3 and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

4 contracted employees

5 SECTION 2. Said section 64 of said chapter 29 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
6 hereby further amended by inserting at the end thereof the following paragraphs:-

7 The state treasurer, on behalf of the deferred compensation program, may adopt annual
8 budgets and supplemental budgets as necessary. Said budgets may include salaries for treasury
9 employees tasked with working on and/or administering the deferred compensation program, and
10 said budgets may be funded from the administrative expense account of the deferred
11 compensation program. Any such treasury employee whose compensation is sourced from the

12 deferred compensation program shall be an “employee” as that term is defined in section 1 of
13 chapter 32 and shall be a member of the Massachusetts state employees’ retirement system.

14 The state treasurer, on behalf of the commonwealth, may establish an automatic
15 enrollment feature within the deferred compensation program. The automatic enrollment feature
16 does not require advance authorization by an employee, and is hereby deemed to be an exception
17 to the provisions of the Massachusetts Wage Act or any other state law requiring employee
18 authorization for a payroll deduction or any similar ordinance of a governmental body. The
19 details of the automatic enrollment feature shall be set forth in the deferred compensation plan
20 document and shall include:

21 (a) A provision that automatic enrollment shall apply only to new employees of the
22 commonwealth, meaning employees hired on or after June 1, 2022; but that for any
23 commonwealth agencies or departments that have Code section 403(b) eligible employees,
24 automatic enrollment shall only apply at the commonwealth agency’s or department’s discretion
25 and affirmative election;

26 (b) A provision that automatic enrollment shall apply only to new employees of a
27 “governmental body”, as defined in section 64B of chapter 29 of these general laws, if the
28 governmental body elects to implement the automatic enrollment feature for its employees;

29 (c) A provision that automatic enrollment may not require more than the IRS safe harbor
30 maximum deferral percentage;

31 (d) A provision that the amount of compensation deferred by an automatically-enrolled
32 employee shall automatically increase by a specified amount each year unless the participating

33 employee elects not to participate in auto escalation or elects to defer a different amount than
34 specified;

35 (e) A provision that an employee who is automatically enrolled shall have as long as
36 ninety days to discontinue participation in the plan;

37 (f) A provision that an automatically-enrolled employee who discontinues participation in
38 the plan within ninety days shall receive a refund of their account as soon as practicable after
39 discontinuing participation;

40 (g) A provision that the plan shall specify a qualified default investment option to receive
41 contributions by any automatically-enrolled employee who does not choose an investment
42 alternative to receive the employee's contributions; and

43 (h) A provision that the plan shall adhere to notice requirements to automatically-enrolled
44 participants in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code and applicable IRS Rulings.

45 SECTION 3. Section 64B of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
46 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting between the third and fourth paragraphs the following
47 paragraph:-

48 The treasurer or, if there is no treasurer, the chief financial officer by whatever name that
49 person is called, on behalf of a governmental body, may, at its own election, implement an
50 automatic enrollment feature within its deferred compensation program established pursuant to
51 this section 64B, chapter 29. The automatic enrollment feature does not require advance
52 authorization by an employee and is hereby deemed to be an exception to the provisions of the
53 Massachusetts Wage Act or any other state law requiring employee authorization for a payroll

54 deduction or any similar ordinance of a governmental body. Subject to the election of each
55 governmental body, any such auto enrollment feature permitted as a part of a governmental
56 body's deferred compensation program shall only apply to new employees of a governmental
57 body hired on or after June 1, 2022 and such deferred compensation program will be required to
58 include the specifications for auto enrollment detailed in subsections (b)-(h) of section 64 of
59 chapter 29 of the General Laws.