

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

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 an elementary and secondary school robotics grant program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>5/5/2021</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>5/5/2021</i>

SENATE No.

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John C. Velis for legislation to establish an elementary and secondary school robotics grant program. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing an elementary and secondary school robotics grant program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 15 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 67. (a) There is hereby established within the department a grant program to
3 increase robotics and STEM participation in public and charter schools. The purpose of the
4 program is to provide a platform for elementary and secondary students in public and charter
5 schools to learn the disciplines to help them achieve higher test scores, attend and graduate
6 college with a major in science, technology, engineering and math and be prepared for a
7 workforce demanding knowledge in those areas. The program shall be known as the elementary
8 and secondary school robotics grant program and shall be funded by the department.

9 (b) The department shall award program grants to public and charter elementary and
10 secondary schools on the following basis:

11 (i) Applicants shall be a public or charter elementary or secondary school in the state.
12 Schools without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program shall be given

13 preference for grant awards; provided however, that schools located in the Cape Cod and
14 Western Massachusetts school catchment area shall have priority for such grants;

15 (ii) Applicants shall commit to running a team registered with one of the following
16 organizations: FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Tech Challenge, FIRST Lego League
17 Explore, FIRST Lego League Challenge, VEX Robotics Competition, VEX IQ Challenge or
18 Science Olympiad; and

19 (iii) Applications shall be submitted to the department by June first of each year for
20 grants to be made for the following academic year.

21 (c) The department shall grant awards to eligible schools in the following amount:

22 (i) elementary schools:

23 (A) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$1,250 for a
24 FIRST Lego League Challenge program and \$590 for an FIRST Lego League Explore Team;

25 (B) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$750 for a FIRST
26 Lego League Challenge program and \$370 for an FIRST Lego League Explore Team;

27 (C) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$490 for a Science
28 Olympiad Team;

29 (D) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$435 for a Science
30 Olympiad Team.

31 (ii) middle schools:

32 (A) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$4,000 for a
33 FIRST Tech Challenge Team

34 (B) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$3,000 for a FIRST
35 Tech Challenge Team;

36 (C) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$1,280 for a VEX
37 IQ Challenge Team;

38 (D) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$700 for a VEX IQ
39 Challenge Team;

40 (E) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$490 for a Science
41 Olympiad Team;

42 (F) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$435 for a Science
43 Olympiad Team.

44 (iii) high schools:

45 (A) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$18,000 for a
46 FIRST Robotics Competition Team;

47 (B) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$15,000 for a FIRST
48 Robotics Competition Team;

49 (C) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$1,700 for a VEX
50 Robotics Competition Team;

51 (D) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$700 for a VEX
52 Robotics Competition Team;

53 (E) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$490 for a Science
54 Olympiad Team;

55 (F) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: \$435 for a Science
56 Olympiad Team.

57 (d) Program grant awards shall be within the amounts appropriated for the purpose and
58 based on availability of funds.

59 (e) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this program.