

HOUSE No. 1854

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Josh S. Cutler

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 the re-entry works fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/6/2023</i>
<i>Lenny Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2023</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/2/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/4/2023</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/30/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1854

By Representative Cutler of Pembroke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1854) of Josh S. Cutler and others relative to establishing the re-entry works fund. Labor and Workforce Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act establishing the re-entry works fund.

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 2020 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 2QQQQQ the following section:-

3 Section 2RRRRR. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the
4 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Re-Entry Works Fund that shall be
5 administered by the department of career services, which may contract with the Commonwealth
6 Corporation to administer the fund. There shall be credited to the fund: (i) revenue from
7 appropriations and other money authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be
8 credited to the fund; (ii) funds from public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations
9 to further workforce development among formerly incarcerated individuals transitioning into the
10 labor force; (iii) interest earned on money in the fund. Amounts credited to the fund shall not be
11 subject to further appropriation and any money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year
12 shall not revert to the General Fund.

13 (b) The department shall expend monies from the fund established in subsection (a) of
14 this section for a re-entry workforce development and supportive services program for formerly
15 incarcerated individuals transitioning from a house of correction or the department of correction
16 to a steady job or career. Program funds shall be used for: (i) job training for formerly
17 incarcerated individuals within one year of their period of incarceration in order to facilitate job
18 placement; (ii) wage subsidies to facilitate private sector employment and professional
19 development; (iii) support services and programs for court-involved youths; and (iv) partnership
20 programs for formerly incarcerated individuals. Partnership programs for formerly incarcerated
21 individuals may include costs for support services including, but not limited to, transportation
22 and childcare, to eliminate barriers to participation in the training program.

23 (c) No later than April 1 of each year, the department shall file a report on this program
24 with the executive office for administration and finance, the house and senate committees on
25 ways and means, and the joint committee on labor and workforce development. The report shall
26 include the annual amount credited to the fund, the number of educational and eligible service
27 providers receiving funding and the amounts granted, the selection process of providers who
28 receive funding, the number of participants receiving services, the number of participants placed
29 in employment, the employment placement of participants by occupation, the salary and benefits
30 that participants receive after placement, the cost per participant, and job retention or promotion
31 rates one year after training ends.

32 (d) The department shall conduct an annual public education campaign to inform justice-
33 involved individuals, houses of correction, and potential and actual employer partners about the
34 availability of services under this program, the location and funding of services under this
35 program, and any admission requirements for services under this program. The department shall

- 36 prepare and disseminate model multilingual forms to be used by correctional facilities as posted
- 37 notice under this section.