

HOUSE No. 1862

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 relative to workforce data accessibility.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2023</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>Ryan M. Hamilton</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>
<i>Rob Consalvo</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>

<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2023</i>
<i>Shirley B. Arriaga</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>	<i>3/1/2023</i>
<i>Aaron L. Saunders</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>	<i>3/3/2023</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/14/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>3/14/2023</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>3/20/2023</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/30/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1862

By Representative Cutler of Pembroke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1862) of Josh S. Cutler and others relative to workforce data accessibility. Labor and Workforce Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to workforce data accessibility.

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 14P of chapter 151A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the last sentence in subsection (f) and inserting
3 the following:-

4 The director shall provide information secured under this section to other entities,
5 including but not be limited to, any federal, state, or local governmental agency, including the 16
6 MassHire workforce development boards, a chief elected official as that term is defined in
7 Section 3102(9) of Title 29 of the United States Code, or the agents or contractors of any
8 governmental agency, where such information is to be used for:

9 evaluation of program performance, including, but not limited to, longitudinal outcome
10 analysis of programs (including programs funded by public or private funds or a combination
11 thereof) to the extent permitted by federal law;

12 financial or other analysis required by federal, state, or local law or regulation;

13 preparation of reports required by federal, state, or local law or regulation;
14 operation of public programs by such agencies, their agents, contractors and
15 subcontractors, whenever the director determines that such information sharing is for the purpose
16 of improving the quality or delivery of program services or to evaluate programs for equitable
17 access and outcomes;

18 establishment of common case management systems between federal, state, or local
19 agencies delivering or supporting workforce development services for a shared customer base,
20 wherever such common case management system is for the purpose of fostering workforce
21 development partnerships, program coordination, inter-agency collaboration, improving program
22 services, or creating operational efficiencies.

23 SECTION 2: Said section 14P of said chapter 151A, as so appearing, is hereby further
24 amended by inserting after subsection (i) the following subsection:-

25 (j) The department shall do the following:

26 (1) Develop the minimum requirements for granting a request for disclosure of
27 information authorized by this section regardless of local, state, or federal funding source.

28 (2) Develop a standard application for submitting a request for disclosure of information
29 authorized by this section.

30 (3) Approve or deny a request for disclosure of information authorized by this section, or
31 request additional information, within 30 business days of receiving the standard application.

32 The entity submitting the application shall respond to any request by the department for
33 additional information within 20 business days of receipt of the department's request. Within 30

34 calendar days of receiving any additional information, the department shall provide a final
35 approval or denial of the request for disclosure of information authorized by this section. Any
36 approval, denial, or request for additional information shall be in writing. Denials shall identify
37 the reason or category of reasons for the denial.

38 (4) Make publicly available on the department's website: the minimum requirements for
39 granting a request for disclosure of information authorized by this section, the standard
40 application developed, the timeframe for information request determinations by the department,
41 contact information for assistance with requests for disclosures of information authorized by this
42 section.

43 (5) For wage data requests that are approved, the department shall provide the following
44 information on participants, at a minimum, and to the extent the data are available: participant
45 demographic information; workforce training program and service participation; geographical
46 location of services; and educational and other credential attainment. The department shall
47 adhere to all applicable state and federal privacy laws, to protect individuals' private information
48 while allowing measurement of aggregate data.

49 SECTION 3. Not later than 30 days after the effective date of this act, the executive
50 office of labor and workforce development, in consultation with division of unemployment
51 assistance, the department of career services, the commonwealth corporation, the Massachusetts
52 workforce association, the workforce solutions group, and any other appropriate agencies or
53 entities, shall convene a task force to develop the action steps required to improve state
54 workforce data infrastructure and promote data use, with the goal of creating data systems that
55 can illustrate how workforce education and training programs are providing opportunity for

56 sustainable employment in the commonwealth. The task force shall develop action steps to
57 accomplish the following:

58 (1) Connect education, workforce development and employment data with such data from
59 other states, to the extent permitted by law and in a manner that protects individuals' private
60 information while allowing measurement of aggregate data; and

61 (2) Ensure adherence to data security and privacy principles, and all applicable state and
62 federal privacy laws, to protect individuals' private information while allowing measurement of
63 aggregate data; and

64 (3) Improve access to and quality of the wage data is shared with the workforce system
65 by working with the department of career services and the department of unemployment
66 assistance to ensure that the wage data files shared between each agency have sufficient
67 information to allow for effective and ongoing workforce program evaluation; and

68 (4) Direct the executive office of labor and workforce development to participate in the
69 Massachusetts education-to-career data system and any other state longitudinal data system
70 efforts; and

71 (5) Review quarterly measures, identifying key trends, analyze equitable access to
72 programs and services, and ensure system partners, stakeholders, and the public have access to
73 data as allowed under state and federal privacy laws; and

74 (6) Develop a two and six-year plan to guide future system improvements.

75 The task force shall submit a report, with its findings and recommendations, together
76 with drafts of legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect by filing the same

77 with the clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the house and senate committees on
78 ways and means, the joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies, the
79 joint committee on labor and workforce development, the joint committee on higher education
80 and the office of the governor not later than January 1, 2024.