

HOUSE No. 3009

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Josh S. Cutler and Kate Lipper-Garabedian

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 creating a workforce skills cabinet supporting pathways to success.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2023</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Adam Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>2/17/2023</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2023</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>Shirley B. Arriaga</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3009

By Representatives Cutler of Pembroke and Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3009) of Josh S. Cutler, Kate Lipper-Garabedian and others for legislation to establish a workforce skills cabinet to serve as a cross-agency governance structure to improve and expand workforce skills and college and career readiness. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating a workforce skills cabinet supporting pathways to success.

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 6 of the General laws, as appearing in the 2018 official edition, is
2 hereby amended by inserting, after Section 17A, the following section:-

3 “Section 17B. (a) There is hereby established within the Office of the Governor a
4 Workforce Skills Cabinet, hereinafter referred to as the “Cabinet,” to serve as a cross-agency
5 governance structure for the purpose of advising the Governor and relevant Executive Branch
6 agencies as well as the General Court, and aligning the programs and policies of the Executive
7 Offices of Labor and Workforce Development, Education and Housing and Economic
8 Development to improve and expand workforce skills and college and career readiness to meet
9 the varying current and future needs of the Commonwealth and its regions.

10 (b) The Cabinet shall consist of: the secretary of the executive office of education; the
11 secretary of the executive office of labor and workforce development; the secretary of the

12 executive office of housing and economic development; the commissioner of the department of
13 elementary and secondary education; the commissioner of the department of higher education;
14 the chairperson of the workforce development board established by section 7 of chapter 23H of
15 the MGL; the executive director of the Massachusetts Workforce Association; three members
16 appointed by the Governor representing business or industry who - (i) are owners of businesses,
17 chief executive or operating officers of businesses, or other executives or employees with
18 optimum policymaking or hiring authority; or, (ii) represent organizations that represent
19 businesses or industries; three members appointed by the governor representing workers or labor
20 organizations; two members appointed by the governor who represent the perspectives and
21 interests of current or future workforce participants, including educators or the parents of school
22 age students; and three members appointed by the governor from amongst other college and
23 career readiness and workforce development stakeholder groups.

24 (c) The appointed members shall each serve three year terms at the pleasure of the
25 governor and serve without compensation.

26 (d) The governor shall select an individual from amongst its membership to chair the
27 cabinet. The chair shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

28 (e) The cabinet shall meet monthly and their meetings shall be public.

29 (f) In addition to, and within, the general mission of the cabinet as stated in subparagraph
30 (a), the cabinet shall:

31 (i) facilitate alignment, collaboration, strategic planning, and joint execution among
32 participating state agencies, offices, and other stakeholders around the development of workforce

33 development strategies for the Commonwealth and the expansion of college and career readiness
34 pathways for all, with an emphasis on high school programs;

35 (ii) shall conduct a biennial study of all college and career pathway programs that focuses
36 on equity of access to said programs as well as the alignment of said programs with current and
37 future workforce needs, including recommendations on creating a process to phase out programs
38 that are not aligned;

39 (iii) shall develop and release an annual report on the state's top current and future labor
40 market needs;

41 (iv) shall oversee the improvement of data collection and reporting on pathways
42 programs by facilitating data linkages between agencies, creating mechanisms to analyze
43 meaningful growth data by specific pathways programs, and building new public-facing data
44 tools;

45 (v) shall advise the departments of elementary and secondary education and higher
46 education with regard to student acquisition of the employability skills that should be achieved in
47 their preparation for career success; and,

48 (vi) shall submit an annual report to the chairs of the house and senate committees on
49 ways and means, the chairs of the joint education committee, and the chairs of the joint
50 committee on higher education detailing the Cabinet's work over the past year.

51 (g) The cabinet shall be staffed by a full time Executive Director who shall be an
52 employee of the office of the governor, selected in consultation with the cabinet.

53 (h) The cabinet shall have the ability to receive funding to hire additional technical and
54 administrative staff, to award contracts and grants, and to take actions necessary to fulfilling its
55 responsibilities stated herein or as otherwise assigned by the governor.

56 SECTION 2. (a) The workforce skills cabinet created, in SECTION 1, shall be charged
57 with developing a set of strategic goals for the Commonwealth, its agencies and education and
58 training institutions, in coordination with the governor's office and in consultation with the
59 department of elementary and secondary education, regarding the expansion of college and
60 career pathway programs for students that enhance and improve the likelihood of successful
61 outcomes for high school graduates in college and career endeavors. The goals shall include the
62 achievement of universal access for all of the state's high school students to said pathway
63 programs, which shall include, but not be limited to, Early College programs,
64 vocational/technical education programs, Innovation Pathway programs, STEM-Tech
65 Academies, and other similar programs and courses of study. The cabinet will include, in its
66 consideration of the establishment of said goals, that each pathway program should contain at
67 least one, or more, of the following elements:

- 68 (i) the ability of students to earn college credit while in high school;
- 69 (ii) the ability of students to earn industry recognized credentials in high school;
- 70 (iii) the ability of students to participate in a meaningful and relevant work-based
71 learning experience while in high school; and,
- 72 (iv) the ability of students to receive dedicated career counseling while in high school.

73 (b) The cabinet will develop, in consultation with the governor's office and the
74 departments of elementary and secondary education and higher education, a plan for the
75 achievement of the goals established in accord with subsection (a) that includes strategies to be
76 implemented, timelines for meeting interim outcomes and final outcome, resources to be
77 allocated, and any other consideration, including an accounting of the persistent inequities
78 inherent in not achieving said goals. The cabinet will report annually on its progress and that of
79 the Commonwealth and its agencies in achieving universal student access to student learning
80 pathways and establish milestone outcomes toward that achievement whose progress will be
81 reported on as part of its annual reporting.