

HOUSE No. 530

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Manny Cruz

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 education-to-career data center.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>4/13/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 530

By Representatives Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose and Cruz of Salem, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 530) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian, Manny Cruz and Vanna Howard relative to establishing an education-to-career data center. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing an education-to-career data center.

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. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 7D the
2 following chapter:-

3 Chapter 7E. Education-to-Career Data Center

4 Section 1. Definitions

5 As used in this chapter, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires
6 otherwise, have the following meanings:—

7 “Board”, the board of the Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data Center established
8 pursuant to section 4.

9 “Center”, the Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data Center established pursuant to
10 section 2.

11 “Data element”, a variable or field in an administrative database or record.

12 “Data provider”, the public agency that provides data elements to the data system.

13 “Data requests in the public interest”, requests for data that enable families, educators,
14 public agencies, researchers and policymakers to make appropriate choices and investments or
15 provide appropriate interventions to improve educational and workforce outcomes for all
16 individuals.

17 “Data system”, the Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data System established pursuant
18 to section 2.

19 “De-identification”, the removal of an individual’s name, address, employer, date of
20 birth, social security number, driver’s license number and other personal information from a data
21 record. Data shall be considered “de-identified” only if satisfying the standard for de-
22 identification set forth in 45 CFR § 164.514(b)(1) or (2) and 34 CFR § 99.31(b)(1).

23 “Longitudinal data set”, a data set containing information on individuals from various
24 public and private sources over multiple periods of time.

25 “Research-practice partnerships”, collaborative, long-term relationships between
26 researchers and practitioners that are designed to increase educational or workforce outcomes.

27 “Secure data enclave”, a secure, remotely accessible environment to aggregate and
28 analyze personal data, as set forth in M.G.L c. 66A, without transferring the underlying data.

29 “Strategic initiative”, a major initiative to increase educational or workforce outcomes
30 that receives funding from the commonwealth over multiple years or entails substantial changes
31 to policy or practice.

32 Section 2. The Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data Center

33 (a) The Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data Center is hereby established within the
34 Executive Office of Technology Services and Security. The center's purpose is to build and
35 operate the Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data System pursuant to section 3.

36 (b) The center shall be headed by an executive director who shall report to the secretary
37 of information technology services and security. In selecting the executive director, the secretary
38 shall consult with the board. The executive director shall be the chief executive, administrative
39 and operational officer of the center; shall direct and supervise the administrative affairs and the
40 general management of the center and shall attend the meetings of the board. The executive
41 director may appoint and remove such employees deemed necessary to perform the duties of the
42 center.

43 (c) The center may receive funding for its operations from state appropriations, federal
44 grants, and any other grants or contributions from public agencies or other entities.

45 (d) The duties of the center shall be to:

46 (1) Oversee and maintain the data system.

47 (2) Develop de-identification processes.

48 (3) Regularly audit and ensure compliance with the Family Education Rights and
49 Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, the Federal Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, the Fair Information
50 Practices Act, M.G.L. c. 66A, the state unemployment insurance statute, M.G.L. c. 151A, § 46,
51 the security breach statute, M.G.L. c 93H, the workforce development statute, M.G.L c. 23H §
52 6(b), and all other state and federal data privacy laws without limitation.

53 (4) Work with public agencies to define statewide education, workforce development,
54 and employment metrics and ensure the integrity and quality of data collected.

55 (5) Produce standard reports and build and maintain data query tools, reducing
56 duplication of effort for agency staff and providing the public with one location to access
57 education and workforce data.

58 (6) Facilitate research requests, ensuring that research complies with all state and
59 federal law related to individual privacy, including by building and maintaining a secure data
60 enclave.

61 (e) Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, the center shall be considered an authorized
62 representative of the state department of elementary and secondary education, the state
63 department of higher education, and the state department of unemployment assistance under
64 applicable state and federal statutes for purposes of accessing and compiling student record and
65 wage data for research purposes.

66 Section 3. Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data System

67 (a) There is hereby established the Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data System for
68 the purpose of providing reliable and actionable information on education and workforce
69 outcomes. Information contained in the data system shall be used to:

70 (1) address disparities in educational and workforce outcomes;

71 (2) support student guidance and informed student and family decision-making;

72 (3) foster continuous improvement and accountability for educational and workforce
73 outcomes; and

74 (4) ensure efficient utilization of public and private resources devoted to furthering
75 educational and workforce outcomes.

76 (b) The data system shall employ technologies to accomplish the following:

77 (1) enable the ongoing creation, management, and monitoring of longitudinal data sets in
78 a manner that protects individual privacy;

79 (2) facilitate utilization of longitudinal data sets and reduce the administrative burden on
80 public agency staff responsible for producing reports and fulfilling data requests in a timely
81 manner, including by providing a public platform for querying the data and building custom
82 reports;

83 (3) provide access to actionable data for use by students, families, counselors, educators,
84 and workforce development providers; and

85 (4) enable academic, nonprofit and governmental research to enhance the development of
86 policies focused on educational and workforce outcomes.

87 (c) At least once per year, the following public agencies shall provide data to the data
88 system:

89 (1) department of early education and care;

90 (2) department of elementary and secondary education;

91 (3) department of higher education;

92 (4) department of unemployment assistance; and

93 (5) Any other public agencies that the executive director, subject to the review of the
94 board, identifies as appropriate for ongoing incorporation into the data system.

95 (d) The executive director may incorporate additional data elements from any public
96 agency or private entity into the data system.

97 (e) Ownership of data provided to the data system shall be retained by the providing
98 entity.

99 (f) At all times, the data system shall act in furtherance of the public good and shall be
100 held accountable thereto.

101 Section 4. Board of the Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data Center

102 (a) The Massachusetts Education-to-Career Data Center shall be governed by a 15-
103 member board composed of the secretary of information technology services and security or
104 their designee, who shall serve as chair; the secretary of education or their designee; the secretary
105 of labor and workforce development or their designee; the secretary of health and human
106 services or their designee; the commissioner of early education and care or their designee; the
107 commissioner of elementary and secondary education or their designee; the commissioner of
108 higher education or their designee; the director of the department of unemployment assistance or
109 their designee; the undersecretary of housing and community development or their designee;
110 three members of the public appointed by the speaker of the house; and three members of the
111 public appointed by the senate president.

112 (b) In appointing members of the public to the board, the speaker and senate president
113 shall strive to ensure that the governing board represents the racial and ethnic diversity of the

114 commonwealth and includes persons with experience in data security, quantitative research and
115 helping students and families consume education data. A member of the public shall serve a term
116 of no more than three years and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms or more than six
117 years. For the first appointments of members of the public, to create staggered terms, the speaker
118 and senate president shall appoint one member of the public to serve a one-year term, one
119 member of the public to serve a two-year term, and one member of the public to serve a three-
120 year term.

121 (c) The governing board shall develop and revise, from time to time, a self-governance
122 process to ensure that it, among other actions, convenes on a regular basis, but no less than
123 quarterly; and posts and archives video recording of all board meetings on the center's public
124 website.

125 (d) The governing board shall be responsible for the strategic direction and
126 implementation of the data system, including, but not limited to:

127 (1) ensuring the data system is serving its intended purpose by providing an annual
128 report to the Governor and the legislature, including the number of research requests approved
129 and denied, the number of unique visitors to online data access tools maintained by the center, an
130 annual budget recommendation for the center, and legislative recommendations to adjust the data
131 system's mission or operation to improve educational and workforce outcomes;

132 (2) establishing a research agenda that balances strategic initiatives, research
133 priorities for data providers, legislative requests, research-practice partnerships, and data requests
134 from outside researchers and the public;

135 (3) adopting best practice policies related to privacy and security, including creating
136 policies, in accordance with federal and state law and regulation, related to data de-identification
137 as well as governing the collection and use of personally identifiable information from data
138 providers, which may include the creation of an “opt out” policy for students and families;

139 (4) adopting and adjusting as necessary a data dictionary, data standards, and security
140 protocols to ensure interoperability between the data system and other state data systems using
141 the same source data;

142 (5) expanding the collected data set by approving additional data providers or
143 requesting additional data points from data providers, consistent with all applicable laws; and

144 (6) creating, and revising from time to time, a data request process for use by
145 researchers and policymakers, that:

146 (i) maintains compliance with federal and state laws to protect individual privacy,
147 including by allowing any data provider to exclude its data elements from a request if the data
148 provider determines that access to the data element conflicts with its statutory requirements to
149 protect individual privacy; and giving data providers the opportunity to review and approve the
150 public release of research products derived from their data elements to ensure that the research
151 products conform with statutory requirements to protect individual privacy; and

152 (ii) facilitates the timely approval of data requests in the public interest, as defined
153 pursuant to section 1, to generate information that is not otherwise available via public query
154 tools or published reports; and

155 (iii) provides a clear and publicly accessible record of all data requests approved,
156 denied, or withdrawn, including by issuing a clear written explanation for the determination
157 when a request is denied.

158 Section 5. Strategic Initiatives

159 (a) The board may determine that a strategic initiative of the commonwealth merits
160 enhanced data collection or evaluation, or both.

161 (b) At such time, the executive director shall appoint a special committee with two co-
162 chairs. One co-chair shall be a member of the board that represents an agency involved in the
163 strategic initiative or their designee. The second co-chair shall be an academic researcher who is
164 not principally employed by the commonwealth. The special committee shall include at least five
165 members, inclusive of the co-chairs. At least three of the members shall have expertise in
166 statistical methods for program and policy evaluation.

167 (c) Over the life of the strategic initiative, the special committee shall recommend
168 evaluation methods. To the extent that these methods require additional data elements, the
169 executive director and board shall direct said agencies to prioritize the integration of these data
170 elements into the data system.

171 Section 6. Research-Practice Partnerships

172 A municipality or group of municipalities of the commonwealth may create research-
173 practice partnerships to improve their understanding of education and workforce outcomes at the
174 local or regional level. The center shall support these efforts by developing policies and

175 procedures to link local data to the data system, in compliance with all state and federal laws to
176 protect individual privacy.

177 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.