

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 564**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Jeffrey N. Roy***

*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 incentivizing the awarding of industry-recognized credentials.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/21/2023</i>

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By Representative Roy of Franklin, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 564) of Jeffrey N. Roy and others relative to industry-recognized certification awards paid by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act incentivizing the awarding of industry-recognized credentials.

*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 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 official edition,  
2 are hereby amended by adding the following four new sections:-

3           Section 37. (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department of Elementary and Secondary  
4 Education shall pay each school district a certification award calculated as follows:

5           (i) \$1,000 for each student in the district who earns an industry-recognized certification  
6 for an occupation that has high employment value, as determined by the executive office of labor  
7 and workforce development through the publication of the annual list required of it pursuant to  
8 Chapter 23, section 26 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022, or  
9 an industry recognized certification that is recognized by any public institution of higher learning  
10 in the commonwealth as a basis for academic credit in such institution.

11 (ii) \$800 for each student in the district who earns an industry-recognized certification  
12 that does not meet the criteria of the previous paragraph but addresses regional demands  
13 identified by the local MassHire Workforce Board.

14 The school district receiving a certification award must allocate at least 80% of any  
15 certification award to the school whose students obtained the qualifying certification. The  
16 allocation may not be used to supplant funds otherwise provided for the basic operation of the  
17 school. The school receiving a certification award must use the award to support or maintain the  
18 program, including the payment of stipends for instructors and the subsidization of fees for low  
19 income students to obtain the certification.

20 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Department may pay a certification development award  
21 to a school district to support the development of programs to assist students in obtaining  
22 industry-recognized certifications described in subsection (a)(i). School districts may use a  
23 certification development award to develop instructors able to prepare students to obtain  
24 certification, to obtain equipment and other instructional materials to be used for such  
25 preparation, or any other purpose directly related to developing programs to assist students in  
26 obtaining a qualifying certification.

27 (c) The Department shall each year prepare an annual report on the progress made under  
28 this section including:

29 (i) The number of public school students who are seeking certifications for high demand  
30 occupations, identifying the number of such students who are low-income, ELL and/or SPED.

31 (ii) The certifications earned by such students, including the number of each such  
32 certifications earned.

33 (iii) An analysis of the extent, if any, to which the funding provided for the program  
34 during the year was insufficient to make the awards under this section.

35 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act will take effect immediately upon its passage.