

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 577****The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Danillo A. Sena***

*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 elementary and secondary school robotics grant program.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                        | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                       | DATE ADDED:       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Danillo A. Sena</i>       | <i>37th Middlesex</i>                   | <i>1/19/2023</i>  |
| <i>John C. Velis</i>         | <i>Hampden and Hampshire</i>            | <i>1/19/2023</i>  |
| <i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>       | <i>Worcester and Hampden</i>            | <i>2/24/2023</i>  |
| <i>Bud L. Williams</i>       | <i>11th Hampden</i>                     | <i>3/17/2023</i>  |
| <i>James Arciero</i>         | <i>2nd Middlesex</i>                    | <i>3/31/2023</i>  |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i>     | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>          | <i>4/5/2023</i>   |
| <i>Brian M. Ashe</i>         | <i>2nd Hampden</i>                      | <i>5/2/2023</i>   |
| <i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>  | <i>16th Suffolk</i>                     | <i>5/2/2023</i>   |
| <i>Steven Owens</i>          | <i>29th Middlesex</i>                   | <i>6/26/2023</i>  |
| <i>Hannah Kane</i>           | <i>11th Worcester</i>                   | <i>6/27/2023</i>  |
| <i>Simon Cataldo</i>         | <i>14th Middlesex</i>                   | <i>6/28/2023</i>  |
| <i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i> | <i>20th Middlesex</i>                   | <i>6/28/2023</i>  |
| <i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>     | <i>16th Worcester</i>                   | <i>6/28/2023</i>  |
| <i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>   | <i>1st Hampshire</i>                    | <i>7/6/2023</i>   |
| <i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>  | <i>1st Worcester</i>                    | <i>10/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Todd M. Smola</i>         | <i>1st Hampden</i>                      | <i>11/3/2023</i>  |
| <i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>     | <i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i> | <i>11/6/2023</i>  |
| <i>Paul McMurtry</i>         | <i>11th Norfolk</i>                     | <i>11/8/2023</i>  |

|                              |                       |                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>    | <i>7th Middlesex</i>  | <i>11/15/2023</i> |
| <i>John Barrett, III</i>     | <i>1st Berkshire</i>  | <i>11/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Judith A. Garcia</i>      | <i>11th Suffolk</i>   | <i>11/29/2023</i> |
| <i>Kate Donaghue</i>         | <i>19th Worcester</i> | <i>11/29/2023</i> |
| <i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>       | <i>14th Bristol</i>   | <i>11/29/2023</i> |
| <i>David T. Vieira</i>       | <i>3rd Barnstable</i> | <i>12/5/2023</i>  |
| <i>Samantha Montaño</i>      | <i>15th Suffolk</i>   | <i>12/11/2023</i> |
| <i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i> | <i>1st Middlesex</i>  | <i>2/1/2024</i>   |

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 577

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By Representative Sena of Acton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 577) of Danilo A. Sena, John C. Velis and Ryan C. Fattman for legislation to establish an elementary and secondary school robotics grant program. Education.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing an elementary and secondary school robotics grant program.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1           Chapter 15 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-
- 2           Section 67. (a) The department of education, hereinafter referred to as the department,
- 3 shall establish a grant program, subject to appropriation, to be known as the elementary and
- 4 secondary robotics grant program for the purpose of providing grants to assist school districts,
- 5 Horace Mann and commonwealth charter schools with the development of STEM and robotics
- 6 programs in schools. The grants shall be used to help students succeed academically and attend
- 7 colleges with a major in science, technology, engineering and math. The grants shall help
- 8 prepare students for a workforce in STEM and robotics. The grants shall also encourage
- 9 voluntary expansion of existing STEM and robotics programs in the commonwealth. The
- 10 department shall develop guidelines governing the grant program and guidelines for
- 11 implementation of said program.

(b) Applicants shall be commonwealth school districts, Horace Mann and commonwealth charter schools. Schools without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program shall be given preference for grant awards. Priority shall be given to schools located in the following counties: Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, Bristol, Barnstable and Dukes. Applicants shall commit to running a team registered with one of the following organizations: FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Tech Challenge, FIRST Lego League Explore, FIRST Lego League Challenge, VEX Robotics Competition, VEX IQ Challenge or Science Olympiad, or approved by the commissioner.

(c) The commissioner shall evaluate annually programs established under this section including the potential for replicating such programs throughout the commonwealth. The commissioner shall also provide technical assistance to school districts seeking to replicate programs funded under said section.