

SENATE No. 360

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

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: | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| <i>John C. Velis</i> | <i>Hampden and Hampshire</i> | |
| <i>Danillo A. Sena</i> | <i>37th Middlesex</i> | |
| <i>Ryan C. Fattman</i> | <i>Worcester and Hampden</i> | <i>2/28/2023</i> |
| <i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i> | <i>First Worcester</i> | <i>4/4/2023</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i> | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i> | <i>6/28/2023</i> |
| <i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i> | <i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i> | <i>11/6/2023</i> |
| <i>Brendan P. Crighton</i> | <i>Third Essex</i> | <i>11/13/2023</i> |
| <i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i> | <i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i> | <i>11/17/2023</i> |
| <i>John F. Keenan</i> | <i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i> | <i>11/30/2023</i> |
| <i>David T. Vieira</i> | <i>3rd Barnstable</i> | <i>12/5/2023</i> |
| <i>Vanna Howard</i> | <i>17th Middlesex</i> | <i>12/20/2023</i> |
| <i>Walter F. Timilty</i> | <i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i> | <i>1/2/2024</i> |

SENATE No. 360

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 360) of John C. Velis, Danillo A. Sena and Ryan C. Fattman for legislation to establish an elementary and secondary school robotics grant program. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE [Refile Branch], NO. OF 2021-2022.]

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.

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

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