

SENATE No. 306

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 to increase student access to career technical education schools and programs which are aligned with regional labor market needs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>3/3/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/13/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/27/2023</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>4/13/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>6/7/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>7/6/2023</i>

SENATE No. 306

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 306) of Jason M. Lewis, Michael O. Moore, Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Patricia D. Jehlen for legislation relative increase student access to career technical education schools and programs which are aligned with regional labor market needs. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 357 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to increase student access to career technical education schools and programs which are aligned with regional labor market needs.

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 is hereby amended by adding the following
2 6 sections:-

3 Section 37. For the purposes of sections 38 through 42, inclusive, the following terms
4 shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

5 “Career technical education”, shall have the same meaning as vocational-technical
6 education pursuant to section 1 of chapter 74.

7 “Office”, shall mean the office of career technical education.

8 Section 38. There shall be established within the department of elementary and
9 secondary education an office of career technical education, which shall be under the supervision
10 and management of the deputy commissioner of career technical education. The deputy
11 commissioner shall be appointed by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education,
12 with the approval of the board. It shall be the duty of said deputy commissioner to improve and
13 maximize career technical education throughout the commonwealth, and to collaborate with the
14 board to promulgate regulations and develop and implement policies to enhance the
15 commonwealth's career technical education programs, including but not limited to the ensuring
16 the enforcement of regulations relative to certificates of occupational proficiency.

17 Section 39. The office shall promote and support with available resources innovative and
18 collaborative career technical education demonstration programs in which students split time
19 between their comprehensive high school and a school offering programs under chapter 74;
20 provided, that under such programs, participating students' daily schedule shall include required
21 academic classes and vocational courses when the equipment is available.

22 Section 40. (a) The office shall develop credentials for students graduating from high
23 quality career technical education programs in applied knowledge, effective relationships, and
24 workplace skills as described in the federal Employability Skills Framework.

25 (b) The office shall ensure instructional ability and competence of career technical
26 education instructors through the utilization of occupational advisory boards and nationally
27 validated teacher competency testing.

28 (c) The office shall utilize both pre- and post-technical assessment in both cognitive and
29 psychomotor domains to determine what students know and are able to do.

(d) The office shall collaborate with recognized industry credential providers such as a recognized industry credential provider to develop state-customized credentials to measure career readiness through skill assessments appropriate to each tier of career technical education.

(e) The office shall consider the use of the 21st Century Skills for Workplace Success Credential, including but not limited for use in validation of basic competencies prior to participation in externships or school-based enterprises and as a graduation or completion requirement for post-graduate and postsecondary chapter 74 programs..

(f) The office shall support the use of Industry Recognized Credentials, known as IRCs, in chapter 74 programs.

(g) The office shall support the use of both longitudinal and pre- and post-student assessment as a means of obtaining meaningful data for curricular improvement. Data may be utilized for facilities improvement, equipment investments, mission success, and professional development.

(h) The office shall engage in statewide data sharing agreements with credential providers that include a variety of access portals for a variety of levels of personnel, including but not limited to state, local career technical education administration, career technical education teachers, parents, and students, giving access to stakeholders to assess program effectiveness.

(i) The office shall encourage and work to increase the use of articulation agreements with community colleges and public universities and other dual credit programs to allow career technical education students to earn credit and stacked credentials that lead to an associate's degree.

(j) The office shall implement and promote efforts, including those related to student outreach and retention, to ensure that career technical education programs are accessible to all students, including English language learners, students with disabilities, and student populations traditionally underrepresented in career technical education programs.

Section 41. The office shall work with the Regional Workforce Boards on an annual basis to determine the labor market needs in their region and, using that information, shall actively promote and facilitate the introduction of career technical education programs that align with regional demand. The office shall work with the regional workforce boards to assure curricular alignment to both local employers' need and expected national standards for labor market needs.

Section 42. Any comprehensive high school shall have access to a minimum of 1 career technical education course or an approved career technical education internship to increase all students' exposure to career technical education fields, enabling students to have the knowledge to access both college and careers.

SECTION 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish and administer a pilot program to incentivize collaboration between high school faculty and guidance counselors of schools offering chapter 74 programs and those that do not to utilize resources developed by career technical education to provide access to skill-training and career options for all students. The pilot program shall be administered for 2 years from the date the program is initiated. At the end of said 2-year period, the department shall submit a report on the effects of the program and the feasibility of continuing such program to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, and to the house and senate co-chairs of the joint committee on education.

SECTION 3. There shall hereby be established a commission to be known as the Career Technical Education Funding Commission, to study funding options for career technical education programs. The commission shall consist of 4 representatives of the department of elementary and secondary education, to be appointed by the deputy commissioner of the office of career technical education, provided, that one shall be the secretary of education or a designee, and 3 representatives of the executive office of labor and workforce development, to be appointed by the secretary of labor and workforce development. The commission shall identify the use of funds for changing market needs. This commission shall make recommendations, which shall include but not be limited to, the following:

(1) whether the Massachusetts school building authority may spend money on equipment only, or if they are limited to funding for education structures;

(2) whether the Massachusetts school building authority should add incentives for the approved chapter 74 educational spaces in programs that align to labor market demand;

(3) how to simplify state law, particularly section 16 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, so that all regional school districts can secure bonding for critical capital projects through the district-wide referendum process outlined in subsection (n) of said section 16 of said chapter 71;

(4) how to change language in subsection (d) of said section 16 of said chapter 71 to allow all regional school districts the option to secure project bonding approval upon a two-thirds vote of approval of each legislative body of a municipality comprising the district; and

(5) any other recommendations relative to funding at the commission's discretion.

93 The commission shall submit a report, which shall include the findings of the study and
94 all such recommendations and any proposed drafts of legislation, not later than 1 year after the
95 effective date of this act.