

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 519**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Antonio F. D. Cabral*

*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 for equitable workforce development.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2025</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>6/10/2025</i>

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By Representative Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 519) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and Vanna Howard relative to admissions to vocational-technical schools or vocational-technical programs to provide for equitable workforce development. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 440 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act for equitable workforce development.

*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 74 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 5B the following section: -

3           Section 5C. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the  
4 following meanings: “Eligible applicant”, a student that meets the requirements to be promoted  
5 to the applicable grade. Any admission offered to an applicant before having been promoted to  
6 the applicable grade shall be contingent only upon promotion. “Department”, the department of  
7 elementary and secondary education.

8           (b) If there are more eligible applicants than spaces available for admission to a  
9 vocational-technical school or vocational-technical program within a vocational-technical school

10 or comprehensive high school, whether or not the program is approved under this Chapter and  
11 including exploratory programs, the school shall hold a weighted lottery to determine which  
12 applicants shall be admitted, said lottery shall be weighted towards protected classes, including  
13 but not limited to, students of color, economically disadvantaged students, students with  
14 disabilities, and English language learners. No eligible applicant shall be required to submit  
15 anything to participate in the lottery other than the school the eligible applicant is currently  
16 enrolled in and contact information as determined relevant by the school.

17 (c) Each school shall place eligible applicants who entered the lottery but were not  
18 admitted on a waitlist, the order of which shall be determined by the lottery. The waitlist shall  
19 include the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, and grade levels of such students, and  
20 any other information the department deems necessary. The school shall forward the waitlist to  
21 the department of education no later than June 1 in the year in which the lottery is held. The  
22 department shall maintain a consolidated waitlist in order to determine the number of individual  
23 students in each city or town seeking admission to vocational-technical education schools and  
24 programs. If a school fills a vacancy after the initial admissions cycle is completed, said school  
25 shall fill the vacancy with the next available student on the waitlist and shall continue through  
26 the waitlist until a student fills the vacant seat.

27 (d) The commissioner shall collect application, admission, enrollment, and waitlist data  
28 pertaining to at a minimum race, ethnicity, students with disabilities, economically  
29 disadvantaged students, and English language learners. The commissioner shall also collect data  
30 on the number of students enrolled in each vocational-technical education program receiving  
31 services pursuant to chapter 71A, chapter 71B, or both. The commissioner shall annually file

32 said data with the clerks of the house and senate and the joint committee on education and make  
33 said data available to the public online not later than November 1.

34 (e) The board shall promulgate regulations for the implementation and enforcement of  
35 this section.