

HOUSE No. 685

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 relative to a green energy track in vocational schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 685

By Representative Roy of Franklin, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 685) of Jeffrey N. Roy for legislation to establish a program to support training and education programs that prepare vocational school students for employment in the clean energy workforce. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to a green energy track in vocational schools.

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 74 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding the following section:

3 SECTION 58. Subject to appropriation, the board of education shall establish and
4 maintain a program to support training and education programs that prepare vocational school
5 students for employment in high-demand occupations as part of a robust and diverse clean
6 energy workforce with the goal of providing existing students enhanced career guidance,
7 professional and job readiness training, and matchmaking with employers to help meet the
8 workforce and talent pipeline needs of employers in the clean energy and climatetech economy.

9 In establishing and maintaining said program, the board of higher education shall solicit input
10 from local public and vocational school authorities, postsecondary technical schools and the
11 board of trustees of community colleges.

12 There shall be, subject to appropriation, a grant program to implement this section to
13 which employers shall have access to:

14 (i) identify, support or establish collaborative regional partnerships including, but not
15 limited to, employers, workforce development and education organizations, regional economic
16 development organizations established pursuant to sections 3J and 3K of chapter 23A and
17 regional economic development officials;

18 (ii) prepare vocational school students for employment in high-demand occupations as
19 part of a robust and diverse clean energy and climatetech workforce

20 (iii) improve and increase employment opportunities in the clean energy and climatetech
21 industry for low-income individuals, women and minorities, and environmental justice
22 populations;

23 (iv) provide training and educational or career ladder services for employed or
24 unemployed clean energy and climatetech workers who are seeking new positions or
25 responsibilities within the clean energy and climatetech industry;

26 (v) increase support for internship and apprentice training;

27 (vi) boost industry-relevant instructor capacity for high school and postsecondary
28 programs; and

29 (vii) direct support for succession planning, worker retention and upskilling strategies for
30 older and incumbent workers.

31 For the purposes of the grant program, "eligible applicants" shall include, but not be
32 limited to: (i) employers and employer associations; (ii) local workforce investment boards; (iii)

33 institutions of higher education; (iv) kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, and vocational
34 education institutions; (v) private for-profit and nonprofit organizations providing education and
35 workforce training; (vi) private for-profit and nonprofit organizations without an established
36 education and workforce training program, provided they partner with vocational education
37 institutions(vii) 1-stop career centers; (viii) local workforce development entities; and (ix) any
38 partnership or collaboration between eligible applicants. Any funds allocated through the
39 program shall complement and not replace existing local, state, private or federal funding for
40 training and educational programs.

41 A grant proposal submitted pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to:

42 (i) a plan that defines specific goals for clean energy and climatetech workforce training
43 and educational improvements;

44 (ii) the evidence-based programs the applicant shall use to meet the goals;

45 (iii) a budget necessary to implement the plan, including a detailed description of any
46 funding or in-kind contributions that an applicant will be providing in support of the proposal;

47 (iv) any other private funding or private sector participation that the applicant
48 anticipates in support of the proposal; and

49 (v) the proposed number of individuals who would be enrolled, complete training and be
50 placed into employment in the targeted industries.

51 The board of education shall, in consultation with the executive office of economic
52 development, executive office of education, executive office of labor and workforce
53 development, the department of education, the Massachusetts Association of Vocational

54 Administrators, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, and entities representing parties who
55 are eligible to participate in the grant program, develop guidelines for an annual review of the
56 progress being made by each grantee. A grantee shall participate in any evaluation or
57 accountability process implemented by or authorized by the commonwealth corporation. The
58 board shall file annual reports for the duration of the programs with the chairs of the house and
59 senate committee on ways and means, the chairs of the joint committee on labor and workforce
60 development, the chairs of the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities, and energy, and
61 the chairs of the joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies not later
62 than January 1; provided, however, that the report shall include an overview of the activities of
63 the programs, the number of participants in the programs and the employment outcomes in the
64 programs.