

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2690

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, November 17, 2025.

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 326) of John J. Cronin and John F. Keenan for legislation to expand student opportunities in career technical education; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 329) of John J. Cronin for legislation to construct vocational education annexes in gateway cities; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 330) of John J. Cronin and Vanna Howard for legislation to ensure that all students have an equal chance of being admitted to vocational programs; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 332) of John J. Cronin for legislation to expand student access to a vocational-technical education; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 358) of Paul R. Feeney, Steven George Xiarhos, James B. Eldridge, Michael D. Brady and other members of the General Court for legislation to improve access, opportunity, and capacity in Massachusetts vocational-technical education; and (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 384) of Edward J. Kennedy that provisions be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to establish a commission to examine expanding vocational and technical high school access, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2690).

For the committee,  
Jason M. Lewis

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2690**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to improve access, opportunity, and capacity in Massachusetts vocational-technical education.

*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, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by adding the following sections:-

3           Section 38. For the purposes of sections 38 and 39, inclusive, the following terms shall  
4 have the following meanings, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

5           “District of residence”, shall mean the school district of the city or town where a student  
6 resides.

7           “School of residence”, shall mean the middle school or junior high school a student  
8 attends within their district of residence.

9           Section 39. (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop and  
10 implement policies and promulgate regulations to promote, enhance, and expand vocational-  
11 technical education programs, as defined in Chapter 74 of the General Laws, in the  
12 commonwealth.

13 (b) The department shall:

14 (i) oversee all Chapter 74 approved programs and ensure compliance with M.G.L.

15 Chapter 74 and related regulations;

16 (ii) work to increase awareness of vocational-technical education and career opportunities  
17 among students in elementary schools, junior high schools, and middle schools;

18 (iii) ensure that schools offering Chapter 74 programs are provided reasonable access  
19 during the school day at schools of residence to meet with all students and distribute information  
20 about vocational-technical education and careers to said students, including English language  
21 learners, students with disabilities, students of color, and other student populations, to ensure that  
22 such information is provided equitably to all learners;

23 (iv) ensure that schools offering Chapter 74 programs are given the opportunity during  
24 the school day to host middle school tours, with transportation costs paid by the school hosting  
25 the tour, for all middle school students in member communities, including English language  
26 learners, students with disabilities, students of color, and other student populations to ensure that  
27 such opportunities are provided equitably to all learners; and further ensure that the school of  
28 residence may not count middle school student tours of vocational schools or programs during  
29 the school day as unexcused absences if the vocational school or program confirms the student's  
30 participation, and may not unreasonably withhold student access to tours of vocational schools  
31 and programs during the school day.

32 (v) require that schools offering Chapter 74 programs are given the opportunity to  
33 provide middle and junior high school students with information about vocational-technical  
34 programs and careers through mail and email.

35 (vi) require all middle schools and junior high schools in member communities to  
36 establish and implement a Chapter 74 Access Policy, in accordance with state requirements  
37 promoting equitable access to Chapter 74 programs, outlining specific ways in which the middle  
38 schools will collaborate with regional vocational-technical high schools and agricultural high  
39 schools to: provide staff members from Chapter 74 schools with direct school day access to all  
40 middle school students, to inform them about opportunities in vocational-technical and  
41 agricultural education and to distribute materials about such opportunities to them; provide all  
42 middle school students an opportunity to tour, during regular middle school hours, the regional  
43 vocational-technical high school and/or county agricultural school of which the middle school's  
44 city or town is a member, with the transportation costs of all such tours being borne by the  
45 school hosting the tours; provide contact information for all seventh grade and eighth-grade  
46 middle school students, including a student's name and mailing address, a student's personal  
47 email address, and the parent's/guardian's email address by October 15 of each school year;

48 (vii) establish, in addition to the minimum requirements outlined in the preceding  
49 subsections, such additional requirements for Chapter 74 Access Policies as the office deems  
50 reasonable and necessary to promote equitable access by all students to information about  
51 vocational-technical and agricultural education;

52 (viii) require all sending school districts which are members of a regional-vocational  
53 school district or whose community is located in the county or district of an agricultural high  
54 school to submit the Chapter 74 Access Policy annually to the department; annually attest in  
55 writing that the Chapter 74 Access Policy is being implemented equitably and that all students  
56 are being provided with information, access, and tours in accordance with this section and with

57 federal and state civil rights laws, regulations, and policies; and post the Chapter 74 Access  
58 Policy on its district website and provide written copies to students and parents, upon request;

59 (ix) create a mechanism to enforce timely implementation of Chapter 74 Access  
60 Policies;

61 (x) establish a system to ensure that students who live in communities that are not  
62 members of or affiliated with a regional vocational-technical high school district or agricultural  
63 high school annually are provided with information about their high school options, including  
64 their option to seek an education in a vocational-technical or agricultural high school;

65 (xi) provide technical support to schools seeking to offer Chapter 74 programs that meet  
66 regional labor market demands and do not duplicate existing programs in the region;

67 (xii) support the continuation of state grant programs that provide funding for equipment  
68 purchases and facility expansion; and

69 (xiii) support the continuation of demonstration programs that provide opportunities in  
70 vocational-technical education for students unable to secure a seat in an approved Chapter 74  
71 program due to lack of enrollment capacity.

72 SECTION 2. Chapter 70B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out  
73 Section 1A(b), as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the  
74 following:-

75 (b) The authority shall consist of the state treasurer, who shall serve as chairperson, the  
76 secretary of administration and finance, the commissioner of education, and 4 additional  
77 members appointed by the state treasurer, 2 of whom shall have practical experience in

78 educational facilities planning, school building construction, or architecture and school design, 1  
79 of whom shall be a person in the field of education with demonstrated knowledge of  
80 Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and other relevant federal and state educational standards,  
81 and 1 of whom shall be a person in the field of vocational education with demonstrated  
82 knowledge of Massachusetts Chapter 74 vocational education curriculum frameworks and other  
83 relevant federal and state vocational educational standards, each of whom shall serve a term of 2  
84 years; but, a person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term. An  
85 appointed member of the authority shall be eligible for reappointment. The authority shall  
86 annually elect 1 of its members to serve as vice-chairperson. Each member of the authority  
87 serving ex officio may appoint a designee pursuant to section 6A of chapter 30.

88 SECTION 3. Section 3A of Chapter 70B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
89 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the number “17” and inserting “19” in place  
90 thereof, and further by inserting, after “Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc.” the  
91 following:- “,Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc., Alliance for  
92 Vocational Technical Education,”.

93 SECTION 4. Subsection (c) of section 14B of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as  
94 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and  
95 inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences:-

96 “Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a city or town may  
97 simultaneously be a member of a vocational regional school district and any other type of  
98 regional school district. A city or town that belongs to a regional vocational school district may  
99 offer a vocational technical education program in its municipal high school; provided, however,

100 that the program is approved under section 2 of chapter 74 of the General Laws; provided,  
101 further, that a vocational regional school district and any other type of regional school district  
102 serving the same town shall collaborate through the office of career technical education in  
103 offering reciprocal non-competitive programs under chapter 74 of the General Laws; provided,  
104 further, that there is demonstrated student and labor market demand for said program as  
105 determined by the Regional Labor Market Blueprint and the regional vocational-technical school  
106 district is unable or unwilling to meet said demand.”