

SENATE No. 326

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John J. Cronin

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 expand student opportunities in career technical education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/27/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>3/17/2025</i>

SENATE No. 326

By Mr. Cronin, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 326) of John J. Cronin and John F. Keenan for legislation to expand student opportunities in career technical education. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to expand student opportunities in career 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. Subsection (c) of section 14B of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so
2 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting in place thereof the
3 following 2 sentences:-

4 “Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a city or town may
5 simultaneously be a member of a vocational regional school district and any other type of
6 regional school district. A city or town that belongs to a regional vocational school district may
7 offer a vocational technical education program in its municipal high school; provided, however,
8 that the program is approved under section 2 of chapter 74 of the General Laws; provided,
9 further, that said programs meet the labor market needs in a community’s region as determined
10 by Regional Workforce Boards.”

11 SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 74 of the General Laws is amended in the second
12 paragraph by adding the following:

13 “provided further that said regulations shall allow for the approval of proposed chapter 74
14 programs regardless of duplication within a region where there is a demonstrated labor market
15 need and insufficient capacity within existing programs to meet that need.”

16 SECTION 3. Section 2 of Chapter 74 is hereby further amended by adding the following
17 two paragraphs:

18 The Commissioner shall direct the resources of the department to provide technical
19 support to municipal and comprehensive high schools seeking to offer Chapter 74 programs that
20 meet regional labor market demands and do not duplicate existing programs in the region except
21 where there is a lack of enrollment capacity in said programs for additional students.

22 The Commissioner shall support the continuation of demonstration programs that provide
23 opportunities in vocational-technical education for students unable to secure a seat in an
24 approved Chapter 74 program due to lack of enrollment capacity.