SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1085 FILED ON: 1/15/2025

SENATE . . . . . No. 460

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

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 establishing an elementary and secondary school robotics grant program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
John C. Velis	*Hampden and Hampshire*	
Danillo A. Sena	*37th Middlesex*	*4/18/2025*
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	*20th Middlesex*	*3/5/2025*
Robyn K. Kennedy	*First Worcester*	*3/11/2025*
Patrick M. O'Connor	*First Plymouth and Norfolk*	*3/21/2025*
John J. Marsi	*6th Worcester*	*5/7/2025*
William J. Driscoll, Jr.	*Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol*	*6/2/2025*
John J. Cronin	*Worcester and Middlesex*	*6/4/2025*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*	*6/12/2025*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 460

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 460) of John C. Velis and Bradley H. Jones, Jr. for legislation to establish an elementary and secondary school robotics grant program. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *360* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing an elementary and secondary school robotics grant program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 15 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 67. (a) At this time, a grant program has been established to increase robotics and STEM participation in public and charter schools. The program's purpose is to provide a platform for elementary and secondary students in public and charter schools to learn hard and soft skills, including public speaking, leadership, time and team management, problem-solving, creativity, hardware, and software, to enter the workforce. The program shall be known as the Workforce Preparation Robotics grant program and shall be funded by the department.

(b) The department shall award program grants to public and charter elementary and secondary schools on the following basis:

(i) Applicants shall be a public or charter elementary or secondary school in the state. Schools without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program shall be given preference for grant awards; provided, however, that schools located in the Cape Cod and Western Massachusetts school catchment area shall have priority for such grants;

(ii) Applicants shall commit to running a team registered with one of the following organizations: FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Tech Challenge, FIRST Lego League Explore, FIRST Lego League Challenge, VEX Robotics Competition, VEX IQ Challenge or Science Olympiad; and

(iii) Applications shall be submitted to the department by June first of each year for grants to be made for the following academic year.

(c) The department shall grant awards to eligible schools in the following amount:

(i) Elementary schools:

(A) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $1,250 for a FIRST Lego League Challenge program and $590 for a FIRST Lego League Explore Team;

(B) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $750 for a FIRST Lego League Challenge program and $370 for a FIRST Lego League Explore Team;

(C) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $490 for a Science Olympiad Team

(D) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $435 for a Science Olympiad Team

(ii) middle schools:

(A) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $4,000 for a FIRST Tech Challenge Team

(B) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $3,000 for a FIRST Tech Challenge Team;

(C) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $1,280 for a VEX IQ Challenge Team;

(D) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $700 for a VEX IQ Challenge Team;

(E) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $490 for a Science Olympiad Team

(F) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $435 for a Science Olympiad Team

(iii) high schools:

(A) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $18,000 for a FIRST Robotics Competition Team;

(B) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $15,000 for a FIRST Robotics Competition Team;

(C) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $1,700 for a VEX Robotics Competition Team;

(D) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $700 for a VEX Robotics Competition Team;

(E) without a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $490 for a Science Olympiad Team

(F) with a sponsored robotics club or established robotics program: $435 for a Science Olympiad Team

(d) Program grant awards shall be within the amounts appropriated for the purpose and based on the availability of funds.

(e) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this program.