



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

Joint Committee on Education

Rep. Kenneth I. Gordon
House Chair

Sen. Jason M. Lewis
Senate Chair

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM-5:00 PM

Location: Gardner Auditorium

Innovation Schools, Vocational-Technical Schools, and Charter Schools

The Joint Committee on Education will hold a hybrid public hearing to solicit written and oral testimony in-person and remotely on the following bills that pertain to Innovation Schools, Vocational-Technical Schools, and Charter Schools.

To register to testify virtually, you must provide contact information on the form linked [here](#). Individuals who wish to testify virtually at the Joint Committee on Education upcoming hearing must register by completing this form before **1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 29th, 2025**.

Registration will CLOSE at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 29th. Those wishing to testify in person may register in person at the time of the hearing but are encouraged to register ahead of time using this form. The Chair will limit testimony to two minutes per individual and reserves the right to call public officials out of turn.

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chair per committee rules.

Please submit written testimony to Fiona Bruce-Baiden at jointcommittee.education@malegislature.gov and Dennis Burke at dennis.burke@masenate.gov or to the Committee on Education at 24 Beacon Street, Room 473G, Boston, MA 02133. The Chairs request that those submitting written testimony include "EDUCATION COMMITTEE TESTIMONY" and the bill number IN THE SUBJECT LINE, and provide the committee with your name, organization, and phone number. **The Committee will accept written testimony until October 7, 2025.**

You may contact committee staff at (617) 722-2070 or (617) 722-1206 or email fiona.brucebaiden@mahouse.gov and dennis.burke@masenate.gov if you have any questions.

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title
H657	O'Day, James J. (HOU)	An Act to promote collaboration in Horace Mann and Innovation Schools
H685	Roy, Jeffrey N. (HOU)	An Act relative to a green energy track in vocational schools
H676	Ramos, Adrienne Pusateri (HOU)	An Act studying the financing of chapter 74 vocational-technical and agricultural school capital improvements
H651	Moran, Frank A. (HOU)	An Act to improve access, opportunity, and capacity in Massachusetts vocational-technical education
S358	Feeney, Paul R. (SEN)	An Act to improve access, opportunity, and capacity in Massachusetts vocational-technical education
H631	Lipper-Garabedian, Kate (HOU)	An Act to increase student access to career technical education schools and programs which are aligned with regional labor market needs
H626	Kushmerek, Michael P. (HOU)	An Act to end discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions
S330	Cronin, John J. (SEN)	An Act to end discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions
H601	Honan, Kevin G. (HOU)	An Act relative to creating a commercial driver's license pilot program at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School
H578	Frost, Paul K. (HOU)	An Act relative to vocational and trade school classes for public school students
H528	Chan, Tackey (HOU)	An Act requiring food allergen certification in vocational schools
H519	Cabral, Antonio F. D. (HOU)	An Act for equitable workforce development
S384	Kennedy,	Resolve establishing a commission to examine expanding vocational and

	Edward J. (SEN)	technical high school access
S326	Cronin, John J. (SEN)	An Act to expand student opportunities in career technical education
S332	Cronin, John J. (SEN)	An Act to expand student opportunities in career technical education
S329	Cronin, John J. (SEN)	An Act to construct vocational education annexes in gateway cities
H4198	Gary, Colleen M. (HOU)	An Act to promote fairness between traditional public schools and regional vocational schools
H4320	Moran, Frank A. (HOU)	An Act establishing a vocational admissions task force
H746	Vitolo, Tommy (HOU)	An Act to ensure charter school transparency and public accountability
H728	Ultrino, Steven (HOU)	An Act relative to charter school fiscal impact and accountability
H634	Lipper- Garabedian, Kate (HOU)	An Act to charter school renewals
H692	Scanlon, Adam J. (HOU)	An Act local approval for charter schools
S414	Moore, Michael O. (SEN)	An Act relative to local approval for charter schools
H632	Lipper- Garabedian, Kate (HOU)	An Act furthering enrollment preferences for high need students
H593	Haggerty, Richard M. (HOU)	An Act relative to charter school expansion

H577	Fluker-Reid, Brandy (HOU)	An Act honoring the Commonwealth's commitment to public school districts
S389	Kennedy, Robyn K. (SEN)	An Act honoring the commonwealth's commitment to public school districts
H563	DuBois, Michelle M. (HOU)	An Act concerning the fiscal impact of charter schools on public education
S378	Jehlen, Patricia D. (SEN)	An Act relative to the financial impact of charter schools
H540	Day, Michael S. (HOU)	An Act relative to charter school caps
H521	Cabral, Antonio F. D. (HOU)	An Act relative to transparency and accountability in charter school finance
S452	Tarr, Bruce E. (SEN)	An Act ensuring charter school integrity
S402	Lewis, Jason M. (SEN)	An Act updating the charter net school spending cap
S393	Lewis, Jason M. (SEN)	An Act relative to the net school spending cap
H4511	Domb, Mindy (HOU)	An Act reforming charter school funding in Massachusetts
S2614	Comerford, Joanne M. (SEN)	An Act reforming charter school funding in Massachusetts

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chair per committee rules.

You may contact committee staff with any questions at (617) 722-2070 or (617) 722-1206.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER

House, No. 657

TITLE

An Act to promote collaboration in Horace Mann and innovation schools

SPONSORS

Representative James J. O'Day of West Boylston

PRIOR HISTORY

H.672 of the 2021-2022 session; study.

CURRENT LAW

MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools and Horace Mann charter schools. H.545 of the 2023-2024 session; redrafted as H.4417; reported favorably to HWM.

MGL 71:89 (i) (1) allows 14 new Horace Mann charter schools to be established without the approval of the local collective bargaining unit, provided that such Horace Mann charter schools develop a MOU with the school committee and local union regarding any waivers to applicable collective bargaining agreements.

MGL 71:92 governs the establishment of Innovation Schools. Innovation schools operate according to an innovation plan, which describes the areas of autonomy and specific strategies that are to be implemented in the school. Subsection (l) outlines the initial approval process for the innovation plan.

SUMMARY

SECTION 1. Amends MGL71:89 (i) (1) by striking language that authorizes 14 new Horace Mann charter schools to be established without local union approval.

SECTION 2. Amends MGL 71:92 (l) to require that the applicant, local union, and superintendent negotiate any modifications to the collective bargaining agreement proposed in the innovation plan. In the case of a school conversion, after such negotiations, if 2/3 of the teachers do not approve the innovation plan, then the local union and superintendent may revise and resubmit the plan for approval. Upon the conclusion of negotiations, the innovation plan shall be submitted immediately to the school committee.

HOUSE No. 657

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James J. O'Day

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 promote collaboration in Horace Mann and Innovation Schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 657

By Representative O'Day of West Boylston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 657) of James J. O'Day for legislation to promote collaboration in Horace Mann and innovation schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to promote collaboration in Horace Mann and Innovation Schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended in subsection (i), clause (3) by striking the words “provided, however, notwithstanding subsection (c) the 14 new Horace Mann charter schools shall not be subject to the requirement of an agreement with the local collective bargaining unit prior to board approval; provided, further, that after the charter for these 14 new Horace Mann charter schools have been granted by the board, the schools shall develop a memorandum of understanding with the school committee and the local union regarding any waivers to applicable collective bargaining agreements; provided, further, that if an agreement is not reached on the memorandum of understanding at least 30 days before the scheduled opening of the school, the charter school shall operate under the terms of its charter until an agreement is reached”

SECTION 2. Section 92 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (l), as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(l) Upon the completion of the innovation plan in subsection (j), the applicant, a local union and the superintendent shall negotiate waivers or modifications to the applicable collective bargaining agreement necessary for the school to implement the innovation plan.

In the case of a school conversion, upon the conclusion of the negotiations, the innovation plan shall be submitted immediately to the teachers in the school that is proposed for conversion for approval by secret ballot within 30 days. A two-thirds vote of the teachers shall be required to approve the plan. If a two-thirds vote is not achieved, the local union and superintendent may revise the innovation plan as necessary and submit the revised plan to the teachers for a subsequent vote.

Upon the conclusion of the negotiations, the innovation plan shall be submitted immediately to the school committee.

Joint Committee on Education**Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 685
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to a green energy track in vocational schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Jeffrey N. Roy of Franklin
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 74 pertains to vocational education.
<u>NOTES</u>	

SUMMARY

This bill amends Chapter 74 of the General Laws whose subject matter is vocation education. Specifically, this bill would authorize the Board of Education to establish a training and education program to help vocational school students prepare for jobs in clean energy and climate-related industries subject to funding approved by the Legislature. Additionally, this bill would establish a grant program that would enable employers to foster regional partnerships, prepare vocational students for high-demand jobs, expand opportunities for underrepresented groups, offer training and career advancement for workers, and support internships and apprenticeships. Eligible applicants would include employers, workforce investment boards, educational institutions such as K–12 and higher education, nonprofit and for-profit training providers, 1-stop career centers, and collaborative partnerships. Program funds must supplement, and not replace existing local, state, federal, or private funding for training and education. The grant proposal should include specific goals for clean energy and climate-tech training and educational improvements and a description of budgetary plans. The Board of Education, in collaboration with key state agencies and stakeholders, would develop annual review guidelines for grantees, require participation in evaluation processes, and submit yearly reports by January 1 detailing program activities, participant numbers, and employment outcomes to legislative committees.

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:

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

SECTION 58. Subject to appropriation, the board of education shall establish and maintain a program to support training and education programs that prepare vocational school students for employment in high-demand occupations as part of a robust and diverse clean energy workforce with the goal of providing existing students enhanced career guidance, professional and job readiness training, and matchmaking with employers to help meet the workforce and talent pipeline needs of employers in the clean energy and climatetech economy. In establishing and maintaining said program, the board of higher education shall solicit input from local public and vocational school authorities, postsecondary technical schools and the board of trustees of community colleges.

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

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

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

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

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

(v) increase support for internship and apprentice training;

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

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

For the purposes of the grant program, "eligible applicants" shall include, but not be limited to: (i) employers and employer associations; (ii) local workforce investment boards; (iii) institutions of higher education; (iv) kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, and vocational education institutions; (v) private for-profit and nonprofit organizations providing education and workforce training; (vi) private for-profit and nonprofit organizations without an established

education and workforce training program, provided they partner with vocational education institutions(vii) 1-stop career centers; (viii) local workforce development entities; and (ix) any partnership or collaboration between eligible applicants. Any funds allocated through the program shall complement and not replace existing local, state, private or federal funding for training and educational programs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The board of education shall, in consultation with the executive office of economic development, executive office of education, executive office of labor and workforce development, the department of education, the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, and entities representing parties who are eligible to participate in the grant program, develop guidelines for an annual review of the progress being made by each grantee. A grantee shall participate in any evaluation or accountability process implemented by or authorized by the commonwealth corporation. The

board shall file annual reports for the duration of the programs with the chairs of the house and senate committee on ways and means, the chairs of the joint committee on labor and workforce development, the chairs of the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities, and energy, and the chairs of the joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies not later than January 1; provided, however, that the report shall include an overview of the activities of the programs, the number of participants in the programs and the employment outcomes in the programs.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 676
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act studying the financing of chapter 74 vocational-technical and agricultural school capital improvements
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Adrienne Ramos of North Andover
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	N/A

SUMMARY

The Executive Office of Education, in coordination with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), is required to conduct a study on the financing of capital improvements in vocational-technical and agricultural schools. The study will assess the feasibility of a tiered reimbursement formula based on school type, review the fiscal impact on municipalities that have completed capital projects in the past five years including MSBA funding received, and examine campaign finance reporting related to local project approvals. It will also involve consultation with key state agencies regarding construction labor rates, agricultural workforce needs, and campaign finance regulations. Findings and recommendations must be reported by the Executive Office of Education to the MSBA, legislative clerks, and relevant committees within six months of enactment, with a possible one-time extension of up to three months by the Secretary of Education.

HOUSE No. 676

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adrianne Pusateri Ramos and Dawne Shand

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 studying the financing of chapter 74 vocational-technical and agricultural school capital improvements.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Adrianne Pusateri Ramos</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Dawne Shand</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 676

By Representatives Ramos of North Andover and Shand of Newburyport, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 676) of Adrienne Pusateri Ramos and Dawne Shand that the Executive Office of Education study the financing of capital improvements in facilities providing primarily vocational-technical education or agricultural education. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act studying the financing of chapter 74 vocational-technical and agricultural school capital improvements.

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

SECTION 1. The executive office of education, in coordination with the Massachusetts School Building Authority established pursuant to section 1A of chapter 70B of the General Laws, shall conduct a study into the current state of financing related to capital improvements in facilities providing primarily vocational-technical education or agricultural education, as defined in section 2 of chapter 74 of the General Laws. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of: (i) the feasibility of establishing a tiered reimbursement formula that separately considers the costs and inherent capital needs of: (A) elementary and middle schools; (B) comprehensive high schools; and (C) vocational-technical or agricultural schools; (ii) summary information related to the fiscal impacts on cities or towns which are served by a regional vocational-technical or agricultural school established pursuant to section 4 of said chapter 74 of the General Laws and which have undertaken a project of capital improvement in the preceding 5 years, whether such project received any financial assistance from the Massachusetts School

Building Authority; (iii) campaign finance reporting obligations pursuant to any general or special law or association regulations, rules or guidelines applicable to local approval for capital projects impacting a vocational-technical or agricultural school, including, but not limited to: (A) whether reported expenditures align with reasonably observed campaign activities; and (B) whether there are disparate expenditures reported related to capital projects involving vocational-technical or agricultural schools and comparable capital projects involving comprehensive high schools. As part of the study, the office shall, as needed, consult with the department of elementary and secondary education, the department of labor and workforce development as relates to current labor rates in the construction industry, the department of agricultural resources as related to current workforce needs in the agricultural sector and the office of campaign and political finance. The office shall report on its findings and submit any recommendations to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint committee on education and the joint committee on election laws not later than 6 months after enactment; provided, however, that the secretary of education may grant up to 1 extension of not more than 3 months.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon enactment.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 651/ Senate. No. 358
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to improve access, opportunity, and capacity in Massachusetts vocational-technical education
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Frank Moran of Lawrence, Senator Feeney
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.538 of the 2023-2024 Session; redrafted as H.4399, referred to HWM. H.666 of the 2021-22 Session; Accompanied H. 4542; Reported favorably to HWM
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 74 pertains to vocational education MGL 59:21C pertains to limitations on taxes assessed MGL 69 pertains to the powers and duties of the department of elementary and secondary education MGL 70 pertains to school finance MGL 70B:3A pertains to the school building advisory board MGL 70B:10 pertains to facilities grants for approved projects MGL 71:16(q) pertains to regional schools' ability to lease equipment for educational purposes

SUMMARY

This bill allocates \$3 billion for a competitive grant program administered by the executive office of education (EOE) in consultation with other executive agencies for career technical education and training programs (CTE) to provide approved capital and equipment funding to expand CTE programs in high-demand and high-wage fields. Eligible applicants include vocational technical schools, agricultural high schools, and comprehensive high schools. Individual grants are capped at \$25 million, with a minimum of \$100 million to be awarded annually over an initial three-year term. Specifies that funds for must come from Fair Share revenues. The bill directs DESE to develop, oversee, and implement policies and regulations for

Ch. 74 programs, that promote and increase awareness of programs, and support equitable access and information dissemination to eligible students. The bill also adds the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc. and the Alliance for Vocational Technical Education to the school building advisory board.

Authorizes the authority to consist of the state treasurer as chair, the secretary of administration and finance, the commissioner of education, and four treasurer-appointed members with expertise in school facilities, general education, and vocational education, serving two-year terms with reappointments allowed, annual election of a vice-chair, and the option for ex officio members to appoint designees.

It also allows a city or town to belong to both a vocational and another regional school district and, with Chapter 74 approval, offer its own vocational program, provided both districts collaborate through the Office of Career Technical Education to deliver non-competitive, reciprocal programs when student and labor market demand exists and the vocational district cannot meet it.

HOUSE No. 651

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Frank A. Moran and Adam J. Scanlon

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/21/2025</i>
<i>Kenneth P. Swezey</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/22/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>1/22/2025</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>Estela A. Reyes</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>Tara T. Hong</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2025</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/30/2025</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>2/5/2025</i>
<i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>	<i>2/5/2025</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>2/13/2025</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/13/2025</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2025</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/21/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/24/2025</i>
<i>Michelle L. Badger</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>2/24/2025</i>

<i>Mark D. Sylvia</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>	<i>3/25/2025</i>
<i>Sally P. Kerans</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>	<i>3/27/2025</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>4/3/2025</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>4/3/2025</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>4/3/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/7/2025</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/12/2025</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/24/2025</i>
<i>Meghan K. Kilcoyne</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>8/11/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 651

By Representatives Moran of Lawrence and Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 651) of Frank A. Moran, Adam J. Scanlon and others for legislation to provide for a program of capital investments for vocational-technical education programs and regional vocational-technical schools. Education.

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:

SECTION 1.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Office of the Secretary

XXXX-XXXX For a competitive grant program to be administered by the executive office of education, in consultation with the executive office of economic development and the executive office of labor and workforce development, to provide capital and equipment funding to expand high quality Chapter 74 career technical education and training programs in high-demand, high-wage fields that are aligned to the commonwealth's Regional Labor Market Blueprints; provided that grant funds may be used for capital and equipment expenditures including, but not limited to, construction of additions or new buildings, start-up lease costs, improvement of existing infrastructure, demolition and removal of existing structures, and

purchase of equipment; provided further that grant funds may not be used to pay staff salaries, professional development costs, or travel expenses, purchase school vehicles, or to offset overhead costs; provided further, that vocational technical schools, agricultural high schools, and comprehensive high schools offering no less than five Chapter 74 programs shall be eligible for funds from this program; provided further, that eligible recipients shall be located in regions of the commonwealth with wait lists for enrollment in Chapter 74 programs; provided further, that funds may support the duplication by a comprehensive high school of existing Chapter 74 programs within a regional vocational-technical school district so long as there is demonstrated student and labor market demand for said program and the regional vocational-technical school district is unable to meet said demand; provided further, that preference in awarding grants shall be given to: (i) schools serving Gateway Cities, (ii) schools with existing Chapter 74 programs in high-demand, high-wage fields that have an excess of applications over seats, (iii) schools with demonstrated strong connections to regional employers, and (iv) schools which have received Chapter 74 program approval by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and have a demonstrated ability to promptly expand capacity to implement said program; provided further, that no individual grant award shall exceed \$25,000,000; provided further that initial term of said grant program shall be three years; provided further that not less than \$100,000,000 shall be awarded per year during the initial term; provided further, that the executive office of education, in consultation with the executive office of economic development and the executive office of labor and workforce development, shall adopt additional guidelines as necessary for the administration of the program; and provided further that funds for this Section shall come from revenue generated by the Fair Share Amendment passed by voters in November of 2022 and which amended Article XLIV of the Massachusetts Constitution.

.....\$300,000,000

SECTION 2. Section 10 of Chapter 70B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following new subsection:

(d) Notwithstanding any state law, state regulation, or agency policy to the contrary, the authority shall be authorized and directed to add twenty (20) percentage points to the project reimbursement rates for regional vocational-technical high school and county, regional and independent agricultural high school construction so that reimbursement rates for such projects are not less than 75% nor more than 90% of the eligible costs. Further, the authority shall add five (5) percentage points to the reimbursement rate for any project that includes state-approved vocational-technical education programs as defined in Chapter 74 of the General Laws aligned with priorities specifically identified in the Regional Labor Market Blueprint for the region in which the school is located. However, additional percentage points shall not be awarded unless the school currently offers five (5) or more Chapter 74 programs. In no case shall the total reimbursement for a project exceed 90% of eligible costs.

SECTION 3. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sections:-

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

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

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

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

(b) The department shall:

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

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

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

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

participation, and may not unreasonably withhold student access to tours of vocational schools and programs during the school day.

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

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

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

(viii) require all sending school districts which are members of a regional-vocational school district or whose community is located in the county or district of an agricultural high school to submit the Chapter 74 Access Policy annually to the department; annually attest in writing that the Chapter 74 Access Policy is being implemented equitably and that all students are being provided with information, access, and tours in accordance with this section and with federal and state civil rights laws, regulations, and policies; and post the Chapter 74 Access Policy on its district website and provide written copies to students and parents, upon request;

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 4. Chapter 70B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out Section 1A(b), as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following:-

(b) The authority shall consist of the state treasurer, who shall serve as chairperson, the secretary of administration and finance, the commissioner of education, and 4 additional members appointed by the state treasurer, 2 of whom shall have practical experience in educational facilities planning, school building construction, or architecture and school design, 1 of whom shall be a person in the field of education with demonstrated knowledge of Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and other relevant federal and state educational standards, and 1 of whom shall be a person in the field of vocational education with demonstrated knowledge of Massachusetts Chapter 74 vocational education curriculum frameworks and other relevant federal and state vocational educational standards, each of whom shall serve a term of 2 years; but, a person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term. An appointed member of the authority shall be eligible for reappointment. The authority shall annually elect 1 of its members to serve as vice-chairperson. Each member of the authority serving ex officio may appoint a designee pursuant to section 6A of chapter 30.

SECTION 5. Section 3A of Chapter 70B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the number “17” and inserting “19” in place thereof, and further by inserting, after “Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc.” the following:- “,Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc., Alliance for Vocational Technical Education,”.

SECTION 6. Subsection (c) of section 14B of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences:-

“Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a city or town may simultaneously be a member of a vocational regional school district and any other type of

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

SENATE No. 358

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul R. Feeney

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/4/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/4/2025</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/4/2025</i>
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/4/2025</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/4/2025</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/12/2025</i>
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/13/2025</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>3/2/2025</i>
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>7/29/2025</i>

SENATE No. 358

By Mr. Feeney, a petition (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. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 274 OF 2023-2024.]

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:

SECTION 1.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Office of the Secretary

XXXX-XXXX For a competitive grant program to be administered by the executive office of education, in consultation with the executive office of economic development and the executive office of labor and workforce development, to provide capital and equipment funding to expand high quality Chapter 74 career technical education and training programs in high-demand, high-wage fields that are aligned to the commonwealth's Regional Labor Market Blueprints; provided that grant funds may be used for capital and equipment expenditures

including, but not limited to, construction of additions or new buildings, start-up lease costs, improvement of existing infrastructure, demolition and removal of existing structures, and purchase of equipment; provided further that grant funds may not be used to pay staff salaries, professional development costs, or travel expenses, purchase school vehicles, or to offset overhead costs; provided further, that vocational technical schools, agricultural high schools, and comprehensive high schools offering no less than five Chapter 74 programs shall be eligible for funds from this program; provided further, that eligible recipients shall be located in regions of the commonwealth with wait lists for enrollment in Chapter 74 programs; provided further, that funds may support the duplication by a comprehensive high school of existing Chapter 74 programs within a regional vocational-technical school district so long as there is demonstrated student and labor market demand for said program and the regional vocational-technical school district is unable to meet said demand; provided further, that preference in awarding grants shall be given to: (i) schools serving Gateway Cities, (ii) schools with existing Chapter 74 programs in high-demand, high-wage fields that have an excess of applications over seats, (iii) schools with demonstrated strong connections to regional employers, and (iv) schools which have received Chapter 74 program approval by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and have a demonstrated ability to promptly expand capacity to implement said program; provided further, that no individual grant award shall exceed \$25,000,000; provided further that initial term of said grant program shall be three years; provided further that not less than \$100,000,000 shall be awarded per year during the initial term; and provided further, that the executive office of education, in consultation with the executive office of economic development and the executive office of labor and workforce development, shall adopt additional guidelines as necessary for the administration of the program.....\$300,000,000

SECTION 2. Section 10 of Chapter 70B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following new subsection:

(d) Notwithstanding any state law, state regulation, or agency policy to the contrary, the authority shall be authorized and directed to add twenty (20) percentage points to the project reimbursement rates for regional vocational-technical high school and county, regional and independent agricultural high school construction so that reimbursement rates for such projects are not less than 75% nor more than 90% of the eligible costs. Further, the authority shall add five (5) percentage points to the reimbursement rate for any project that includes state-approved vocational-technical education programs as defined in Chapter 74 of the General Laws aligned with priorities specifically identified in the Regional Labor Market Blueprint for the region in which the school is located. However, additional percentage points shall not be awarded unless the school currently offers five (5) or more Chapter 74 programs. In no case shall the total reimbursement for a project exceed 90% of eligible costs.

SECTION 3. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sections:-

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

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

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

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

(b) The department shall:

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

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

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

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

participation, and may not unreasonably withhold student access to tours of vocational schools and programs during the school day.

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

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

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

(viii) require all sending school districts which are members of a regional-vocational school district or whose community is located in the county or district of an agricultural high school to submit the Chapter 74 Access Policy annually to the department; annually attest in writing that the Chapter 74 Access Policy is being implemented equitably and that all students are being provided with information, access, and tours in accordance with this section and with federal and state civil rights laws, regulations, and policies; and post the Chapter 74 Access Policy on its district website and provide written copies to students and parents, upon request;

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 4. Chapter 70B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out Section 1A(b), as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following:-

(b) The authority shall consist of the state treasurer, who shall serve as chairperson, the secretary of administration and finance, the commissioner of education, and 4 additional members appointed by the state treasurer, 2 of whom shall have practical experience in educational facilities planning, school building construction, or architecture and school design, 1 of whom shall be a person in the field of education with demonstrated knowledge of Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and other relevant federal and state educational standards, and 1 of whom shall be a person in the field of vocational education with demonstrated knowledge of Massachusetts Chapter 74 vocational education curriculum frameworks and other relevant federal and state vocational educational standards, each of whom shall serve a term of 2 years; but, a person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term. An appointed member of the authority shall be eligible for reappointment. The authority shall annually elect 1 of its members to serve as vice-chairperson. Each member of the authority serving ex officio may appoint a designee pursuant to section 6A of chapter 30.

SECTION 5. Section 3A of Chapter 70B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the number “17” and inserting “19” in place thereof, and further by inserting, after “Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc.” the following:- “,Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc., Alliance for Vocational Technical Education,”.

SECTION 6. Subsection (c) of section 14B of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences:-

“Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a city or town may simultaneously be a member of a vocational regional school district and any other type of regional school district. A city or town that belongs to a regional vocational school district may offer a vocational technical education program in its municipal high school; provided, however, that the program is approved under section 2 of chapter 74 of the General Laws; provided, further, that a vocational regional school district and any other type of regional school district serving the same town shall collaborate through the office of career technical education in offering reciprocal non-competitive programs under chapter 74 of the General Laws; provided, further, that there is demonstrated student and labor market demand for said program as determined by the Regional Labor Market Blueprint and the regional vocational-technical school district is unable or unwilling to meet said demand.”

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House No.631
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to increase student access to career technical education schools and programs which are aligned with regional labor market needs
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	S.306 of the 2023-2024 Session
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.652 of the 2021-2022 Session; redrafted H.4542. Reported favorably to HWM. No further action. H.531 of the 2023-2024 Session; redrafted H.4399. Reported favorably to HWM. No further action.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	<p>MGL 69 refers to the powers and duties of the department of elementary and secondary education</p> <p>MGL 70B:3A refers to school building advisory board; members</p> <p>MGL 71:14B refers to regional school districts; formation; procedure</p> <p>MGL 71:16 refers to the status, powers and duties of a regional school district</p>

SUMMARY

This bill adds sections to MGL 69 to change Career technical education (CTE) as having the same meaning as vocational-technical education. It establishes an office of CTE; the deputy commissioner of the CTE office will be appointed by the commissioner with the approval of the board. The office must develop credentials for those graduating from high-quality CTE programs. The office must work with Regional Workforce Boards on an annual basis to determine labor market needs in their region and actively promote CTE programs that align with demand. Any high school must have access to a minimum of 1 CTE course or approved internship. Requires the department to establish a pilot program and at the end of the two-year pilot program report on the effects of the program and feasibility of continuing such program to the clerks of the house and senate, and the co-chairs of the joint committee on education.

This bill inserts language giving cities the option to offer vocational technical education programs in their municipal high schools if they belong to a regional vocational school district. The program must be approved under section 2 of the chapter 74 of MGL. This must be in collaboration with the office of CTE in offering reciprocal, non-competitive programs and meets the labor market needs in a community's region. This bill requires the department to establish and administer a pilot program to incentivize collaboration between high school faculty and guidance counselors of schools offering vocational education programs and those that do not to provide access to skill-training and career options for all students. At the end of the two-year pilot program, the department must submit a report on the effects of the program and the feasibility of continuing such program to the clerks of the house and the senate, and the house and senate co-chairs of the joint committee on education.

HOUSE No. 631

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Jessica Ann Giannino

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 increase student access to career technical education schools and programs which are aligned with regional labor market needs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 631

By Representatives Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose and Giannino of Revere, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 631) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Jessica Ann Giannino for legislation to increase student access to career technical education schools and programs which are aligned with regional labor market needs. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 531 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to increase student access to career technical education schools and programs which are aligned with regional labor market needs.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following 6 sections:-

Section 37. For the purposes of sections 38 through 42, inclusive, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

“Career technical education”, shall have the same meaning as vocational-technical education pursuant to section 1 of chapter 74.

“Office”, shall mean the office of career technical education.

Section 38. There shall be established within the department of elementary and secondary education an office of career technical education, which shall be under the supervision and management of the deputy commissioner of career technical education. The deputy commissioner shall be appointed by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, with the approval of the board. It shall be the duty of said deputy commissioner to improve and maximize career technical education throughout the commonwealth, and to collaborate with the board to promulgate regulations and develop and implement policies to enhance the commonwealth's career technical education programs, including but not limited to the ensuring the enforcement of regulations relative to certificates of occupational proficiency.

Section 39. The office shall promote and support with available resources innovative and collaborative career technical education demonstration programs in which students split time between their comprehensive high school and a school offering programs under chapter 74; provided, that under such programs, participating students' daily schedule shall include required academic classes and vocational courses when the equipment is available.

Section 40. (a) The office shall develop credentials for students graduating from high quality career technical education programs in applied knowledge, effective relationships, and workplace skills as described in the federal Employability Skills Framework.

(b) The office shall ensure instructional ability and competence of career technical education instructors through the utilization of occupational advisory boards and nationally validated teacher competency testing.

(c) The office shall utilize both pre- and post-technical assessment in both cognitive and psychomotor domains to determine what students know and are able to do.

(d) The office shall collaborate with recognized industry credential providers such as a recognized industry credential provider to develop state-customized credentials to measure career readiness through skill assessments appropriate to each tier of career technical education.

(e) The office shall consider the use of the 21st Century Skills for Workplace Success Credential, including but not limited for use in validation of basic competencies prior to participation in externships or school-based enterprises and as a graduation or completion requirement for post-graduate and postsecondary chapter 74 programs.

(f) The office shall support the use of Industry Recognized Credentials, known as IRCs, in chapter 74 programs.

(g) The office shall support the use of both longitudinal and pre- and post-student assessment as a means of obtaining meaningful data for curricular improvement. Data may be utilized for facilities improvement, equipment investments, mission success, and professional development.

(h) The office shall engage in statewide data sharing agreements with credential providers that include a variety of access portals for a variety of levels of personnel, including but not limited to state, local career technical education administration, career technical education teachers, parents, and students, giving access to stakeholders to assess program effectiveness.

(i) The office shall encourage and work to increase the use of articulation agreements with community colleges and public universities and other dual credit programs to allow career technical education students to earn credit and stacked credentials that lead to an associate's degree.

(j) The office shall implement and promote efforts, including those related to student outreach and retention, to ensure that career technical education programs are accessible to all students, including English language learners, students with disabilities, and student populations traditionally underrepresented in career technical education programs.

Section 41. The office shall work with the Regional Workforce Boards on an annual basis to determine the labor market needs in their region and, using that information, shall actively promote and facilitate the introduction of career technical education programs that align with regional demand. The office shall work with the regional workforce boards to assure curricular alignment to both local employers' need and expected national standards for labor market needs.

Section 42. Any comprehensive high school shall have access to a minimum of 1 career technical education course or an approved career technical education internship to increase all students' exposure to career technical education fields, enabling students to have the knowledge to access both college and careers.

SECTION 2. Section 3A of Chapter 70B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the number "17" and inserting "19" in place thereof, and further by inserting, after "Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc." the following:-

" , Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc., Alliance for Vocational Technical Education Coalition,"

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

“Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a city or town may simultaneously be a member of a vocational regional school district and any other type of regional school district. A city or town that belongs to a regional vocational school district may offer a vocational technical education program in its municipal high school; provided, however, that the program is approved under section 2 of chapter 74 of the General Laws; provided, further, that a vocational regional school district and any other type of regional school district serving the same town shall collaborate through the office of career technical education in offering reciprocal non-competitive programs under chapter 74 of the General Laws; provided, further, that said programs meet the labor market needs in a community’s region as determined by Regional Workforce Boards.”

SECTION 4. Subsection (q) of section 16 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the word “five” and inserting in place thereof the number “25”.

SECTION 5. The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish and administer a pilot program to incentivize collaboration between high school faculty and guidance counselors of schools offering chapter 74 programs and those that do not to utilize resources developed by career technical education to provide access to skill-training and career options for all students. The pilot program shall be administered for 2 years from the date the program is initiated. At the end of said 2-year period, the department shall submit a report on the effects of the program and the feasibility of continuing such program to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, and to the house and senate co-chairs of the joint committee on education.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 626/ Senate, No. 330
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to end discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Rep. Kushmerek of Fitchburg, Sen. John Cronin of Worcester
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.524 and S.257 of the 2023-2024 Session; Redrafted as H.4388 and S.2667, referred to HWM and SWM.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 74 pertains to vocational education MGL 74:5B pertains to vocational-technical education collaboratives

SUMMARY

This bill would require vocational-technical schools to hold a blind lottery to determine which applicants are to be admitted should there be more eligible applicants than spaces for admission. Eligible applicants would be required to submit only their currently enrolled school and contact information to apply. Eligible applicants who entered the lottery but were not admitted must be placed on a waitlist in the order determined by the lottery, and vacancies must be filled with the next available student on the waitlist.

The bill also requires the commissioner to collect and report application, admission, enrollment, and waitlist data pertaining to race, ethnicity, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and English language learners.

HOUSE No. 626

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael P. Kushmerek

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 end discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 626

By Representative Kushmerek of Fitchburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 626) of Michael P. Kushmerek relative to discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 524 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to end discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions.

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

Chapter 74 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 5B the following section:-

Section 5C. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Eligible applicant”, a student that meets the requirements to be promoted to the applicable grade. Any admission offered to an applicant before having been promoted to the applicable grade shall be contingent only upon promotion.

“Department”, the department of elementary and secondary education.

(b) If there are more eligible applicants than spaces available for admission to a vocational-technical school or vocational-technical program within a vocational-technical school or comprehensive high school, whether or not the program is approved under this Chapter and including exploratory programs, the school shall hold a blind lottery to determine which applicants shall be admitted. No eligible applicant shall be required to submit anything to participate in the lottery other than the school the eligible applicant is currently enrolled in and contact information as determined relevant by the school.

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

(d) The commissioner shall collect application, admission, enrollment, and waitlist data pertaining to at a minimum race, ethnicity, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and English language learners. The commissioner shall also collect data on the number of students enrolled in each vocational technical education program receiving services pursuant to chapter 71A, chapter 71B or both. The commissioner shall annually file said data with the clerks of the house and senate and the joint committee on education and make said data available to the public online not later than November 1.

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

SENATE No. 330

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 end discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2025</i>

SENATE No. 330

By Mr. Cronin, a petition (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. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2667 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to end discriminatory outcomes in vocational school admissions.

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

Chapter 74 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 5B the following section:-

Section 5C. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Eligible applicant”, a student that meets the requirements to be promoted to the applicable grade. Any admission offered to an applicant before having been promoted to the applicable grade shall be contingent only upon promotion.

“Department”, the department of elementary and secondary education.

(b) If there are more eligible applicants than spaces available from a sending community for admission to a vocational-technical school or vocational-technical program within a vocational-technical school or comprehensive high school, whether or not the program is approved under this Chapter and including exploratory programs, the school shall hold a lottery to determine which of the sending community's applicants shall be admitted.

(c) Each school district may consider attendance and discipline for entry to the lottery.

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

(e) The commissioner shall collect application, admission, enrollment, and waitlist data pertaining to at a minimum race, ethnicity, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and English language learners. The commissioner shall also collect data on the number of students enrolled in each vocational technical education program receiving services pursuant to chapter 71A, chapter 71B or both. The commissioner shall annually file said data with the clerks of the house and senate and the joint committee on education and make said data available to the public online not later than November 1.

(f) The board shall promulgate regulations for implementation and enforcement of this section.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 601
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to creating a commercial driver’s license pilot program at Madison Park technical vocational high school
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Rep. Honan and Rep. Tyler of Boston
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.3571 and S.319 of the 2023-2024 Session; study.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 74 pertains to vocational education

SUMMARY

Amends MGL 74 by adding a new section – Section 59 -- which establishes a pilot program administered by Madison Park Vocational High School in Boston to provide training for transit driving.

HOUSE No. 601

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kevin G. Honan

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 creating a commercial driver's license pilot program at Madison Park
Technical Vocational High School.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 601

By Representative Honan of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 601) of Kevin G. Honan relative to creating a commercial driver's license pilot program to be administered by Madison Park Technical Vocational High School in the city of Boston. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3571 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to creating a commercial driver's license pilot program at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School.

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

Chapter 74 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 59. There is hereby established a pilot program known as the commercial driver's license (CDL) program that shall be administered by Madison Park Technical Vocational High School in the city of Boston to provide training for transit driving. The program will provide classroom and off-site training.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 578
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to vocational and trade school classes for public school students
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Rep. Frost of Auburn
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H. 589 of the 2021-22 Session; study, H.578 of the 2023-2024 Session; study.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 74 pertains to vocational education

SUMMARY

This bill would amend MGL 74 by adding a new section following section 7C, which would permit non-vocational middle and high schools to provide vocational education to certain students who are unable to attend a regional vocational school.

HOUSE No. 578

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul K. Frost

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 vocational and trade school classes for public school students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 578

By Representative Frost of Auburn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 578) of Paul K. Frost relative to vocational and trade school classes for public school students. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 479 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to vocational and trade school classes for public school students.

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

Chapter 74 of General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 7C the following new Section:-

Section 7D. Non-vocational and trade public high schools and middle schools may provide vocational and trade learning for students who are unable to attend a regional vocational school. This provision shall be optional at the local level. This provision is meant for those students who (i) are not accepted into a dedicated vocational and trade school or program; (ii) left a vocational school or trade school; and (iii) live in the public school's district. The Department of Education shall provide guidance on such learning and develop a waiver program to allow schools and students this opportunity.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 528
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act requiring food allergen certification in vocational schools
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Rep. Chan of Quincy
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H. 559 of the 2021-22 Session; study. H.443 of the 2023-2024 Session; study.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 74 pertains to vocational education

SUMMARY

This bill would amend MGL 74 by adding a new section, Section 14C, which will require that students in a culinary arts program be required to complete and receive a food allergen certification from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The bill also requires the state board to establish rules and regulations consistent with the implementation of this program.

HOUSE No. 528

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tackey Chan

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 requiring food allergen certification in vocational schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>1/10/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 528

By Representative Chan of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 528) of Tackey Chan relative to requiring food allergen certification in vocational schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4418 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act requiring food allergen certification 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:

Chapter 74 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 14B the following new section:-

Section 14C. Each student of the culinary arts program shall be required to complete and receive the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s food allergen certification as part of the completion of said program. The state board shall establish rules and regulations consistent with the implementation of this program.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 519
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act for equitable workforce development
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Rep. Cabral of New Bedford
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	H626
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	S.308 in the 2021-22 Session; Accompanied S.2749; Reported favorably to SWM. H.440 in the 2023-2024 Session; redrafted as H.4399, reported favorably to HWM.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 74 pertains to vocational education

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 74 to require vocational-technical schools to conduct a weighted lottery for admissions, in which protected classes such as students of color, economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English language learners are given weight. It further requires that application materials only include currently enrolled school and contact information. The bill also requires the commissioner to collect and report information regarding application and enrollment data related to protected classes cited above.

HOUSE No. 519

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>

HOUSE No. 519

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.

[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:

SECTION 1. Chapter 74 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 5B the following section: -

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

(b) If there are more eligible applicants than spaces available for admission to a vocational-technical school or vocational-technical program within a vocational-technical school or comprehensive high school, whether or not the program is approved under this Chapter and

including exploratory programs, the school shall hold a weighted lottery to determine which applicants shall be admitted, said lottery shall be weighted towards protected classes, including but not limited to, students of color, economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English language learners. No eligible applicant shall be required to submit anything to participate in the lottery other than the school the eligible applicant is currently enrolled in and contact information as determined relevant by the school.

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

(d) The commissioner shall collect application, admission, enrollment, and waitlist data pertaining to at a minimum race, ethnicity, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and English language learners. The commissioner shall also collect data on the number of students enrolled in each vocational-technical education program receiving services pursuant to chapter 71A, chapter 71B, or both. The commissioner shall annually file said data with the clerks of the house and senate and the joint committee on education and make said data available to the public online not later than November 1.

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

Joint Committee on Education**Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 4198
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to promote fairness between traditional public schools and regional vocational schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Colleen Gary of Dracut
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.599 of the 2021-2022 Session; study. H.485 of the 2023-2024 Session; study.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 70:6 pertains to municipal contributions for schools and school districts

SUMMARY

This bill would require a regional vocational school does not receive a yearly funding increase from a member municipality that exceeds the percentage increase allocated to that municipality's traditional public school district for the same year.

HOUSE No. 4198

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Colleen M. Garry

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 promote fairness between traditional public schools and regional vocational schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/12/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 4198

By Representative Garry of Dracut, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Colleen M. Garry for legislation to establish parity in funding for regional vocational school districts and traditional public school districts. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 485 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to promote fairness between traditional public schools and regional 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:

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6 of Chapter 70 of the General laws, no regional vocational school district shall receive an annual contribution from a member municipality greater than the percentage increase appropriated for the member's traditional public school district's annual budget percentage increase.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 4320
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act establishing a vocational admissions task force
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Frank Moran of Lawrence
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 74 pertains to vocational education

SUMMARY

This bill would create the Vocational Admissions Task Force to review and recommend improvements on Chapter 74 admissions policies, the collection and analysis of admissions and waitlist data, and the standards for policy enforcement. The 15-member task force includes key legislative leaders, the Commissioner of the Department Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or designee, and representatives from various vocational and educational organizations. The task force must hold its first meeting within 60 days of the law's effective date, conduct at least one public hearing, and submit a report with findings and legislative recommendations within 12 months. DESE is prohibited from changing admissions regulations or policies affecting the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years until the task force's report is finalized, with any prior actions deemed as violations of this bill.

HOUSE No. 4320

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Frank A. Moran and Adam J. Scanlon

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 a vocational admissions task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>3/17/2025</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>
<i>Tara T. Hong</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>John Francis Moran</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Kenneth P. Sweezey</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/25/2025</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/25/2025</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/25/2025</i>
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/25/2025</i>
<i>Estela A. Reyes</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>	<i>4/7/2025</i>
<i>Kelly A. Dooner</i>	<i>Third Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/25/2025</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>3/26/2025</i>
<i>Dennis C. Gallagher</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/27/2025</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/31/2025</i>

<i>Edward J. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>	<i>3/31/2025</i>
<i>Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>	<i>4/7/2025</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/7/2025</i>
<i>Steven J. Ouellette</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>4/24/2025</i>
<i>Peter J. Durant</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/9/2025</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>4/10/2025</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>4/14/2025</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>4/14/2025</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>4/16/2025</i>
<i>Meghan K. Kilcoyne</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>4/24/2025</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>5/19/2025</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampden</i>	<i>5/20/2025</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>6/3/2025</i>
<i>Michelle L. Badger</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>7/7/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>9/9/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 4320

By Representatives Moran of Lawrence and Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Frank A. Moran, Adam J. Scanlon and others for legislation to establish a special task force (including members of the General Court) to review and report on vocational admissions policies. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a vocational admissions task force.

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a Vocational Admissions Task Force to examine and make recommendations on (1) Chapter 74 admissions policies, (2) the collection, dissemination, and analysis of district-level and statewide data on Chapter 74 admissions and waitlists, and (3) the standard for review and enforcement of said policies and data.

SECTION 2. The task force shall consist of 15 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education, or their designees, who shall serve as the co-chairs of the task force; the task force shall also consist of the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on labor and workforce development, a member of the general court appointed by the senate minority leader; a member of the general court appointed by the house minority leader; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or a designee, 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA), 1 member appointed by the

Alliance for Vocational Technical Education (AVTE), 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Career & Technical Educators Organization (MassCTE), 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS), 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS), 1 member of the Gateway Cities Legislative Caucus, and 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA).

SECTION 3. The first meeting of the task force shall take place within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The task force shall conduct at least one public hearing to receive testimony from members of the public. The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including legislative recommendations, if any, with the clerks of the house and senate not later than 12 months following the first meeting of the task force. The Department of Elementary Education shall not promulgate or otherwise amend its regulations relative to Chapter 74 admissions prior to the completion of the task force's report, nor shall the Department take any other action prior to the completion of the task force's report that would otherwise alter, amend, or affect the admissions policies of Chapter 74 schools and programs for the 2025-2026 or 2026-2027 admission cycles or school years. Any regulatory, policy, or enforcement action taken by the Department relative to Chapter 74 admissions policies between March 12, 2025 and the release of the task force report shall be deemed to be in violation of this Section.

SECTION 4. This act shall be effective upon passage.

Joint Committee on Education**Bill Summary**

BILL NUMBER

House, No. 746

TITLE

An Act to ensure charter school transparency and public accountability

SPONSORS

Representative Tommy Vitolo of Brookline

SIMILAR MATTERS**PRIOR HISTORY**

H.608 of the 2023-2024 session; attached without language to H4417.

H.718 of the 2021-2022 session; study.

CURRENT LAW

MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools and Horace Mann charter schools.

MGL 150E pertains to labor relations, collective bargaining, and public employees.

MGL 258 pertains to claims and indemnity procedures for the Commonwealth and its municipalities, counties, and districts. This includes officers and employees of those jurisdictions.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71 by adding a new section, Section 89A, which establishes new regulations governing charter schools' governance, employees, compliance and accountability, management, funding, and data reporting. It further charges DESE with additional responsibilities related to these regulations.

HOUSE No. 746

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tommy Vitolo

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 ensure charter school transparency and public accountability.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/22/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 746

By Representative Vitolo of Brookline, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 746) of Tommy Vitolo and James K. Hawkins for legislation to ensure charter school transparency and public accountability. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 608 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to ensure charter school transparency and public accountability.

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

Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after Section 89 the following new section: -

Section 89A. Charter School Transparency and Public Accountability

This section shall apply to all charter schools, as defined in Section 89 of this chapter.

(a) Each charter school's original application and charter agreement shall be available online on the websites of both the individual school and the department of elementary and secondary education.

(b) Within 2 years of a charter school's founding, at least 50 percent of the members of each charter school governing board shall be representatives from among parents at the school,

elected by parents, and, in the case of high schools, students, elected by students. Non-parent or student members of the governing board should be required to reside in the school district in which the school operates. Each charter school shall list board members with affiliations on the school's website. Members of charter school governing boards shall file full financial disclosure reports and identify any potential conflicts of interest, relationships with management companies, or other business dealings with the school, its management company, or other charter schools. These documents shall be available online through the department.

(c) Governing boards of charter schools shall hold all meetings in the district in which their school or schools operate and at times that are convenient to parents. All meetings shall be open to the public and publicized in advance according to the same laws that apply to the local school committee, including the state open meeting law.

(d) Minutes from charter school governing board meetings, the school's policies, information about staff, instructional strategies, curriculum, school rules and behavior codes, school budgets, and information about management companies or other large contracts shall be available online.

(e) Employees of charter schools shall be considered public employees for purposes of tort liability under chapter 258 and for collective bargaining purposes under chapter 150E. These rights must include due process rights for all school employees as a condition for receiving or renewing a charter, including that the employer must provide the employee with evidence of alleged misconduct or reason for termination and that the employer must give the employee a chance to respond to those allegations.

(f) Charter schools shall be subject to all state laws regarding freedom of information, public records, and public meetings. The board shall impose specific and escalating sanctions for schools that fail to comply with these state laws.

(g) Charter schools shall comply with state laws or district requirements on school-based parent and educator advisory councils or groups to ensure that parents, teachers, and school staff have a voice in school matters.

(h) Complete contracts for management services shall be electronically posted on the schools' websites within ten days of execution. The posting should include detailed information about the services to be provided by the management company and all financial commitments and compensation, as well as all fees and bonuses to be provided to the management company.

(i) Charter management organizations shall provide full public financial disclosure of their expenditures and profits related to the operation of each school they serve.

(j) Any person with a financial relationship to a charter management organization shall be prohibited from serving on the governing board of any charter school.

(k) The charter school governing board, and not the charter management company, shall directly select, retain, and compensate the school attorney, accountant, and auditing firm.

(l) Charter schools shall be prohibited from utilizing enrollment and registration procedures that directly or indirectly exclude or discourage certain students from enrolling at the school.

(m) The department shall monitor charter school enrollment and retention practices through uniform and consistent data requirements to ensure that charter schools are enrolling a proportionate share of students across subgroups.

(n) An independent ombudsman office shall be created within the department to allow parents to challenge or appeal enrollment, student classification, or withdrawal decisions by the charter school. The ombudsman's office shall have the authority to take action against any charter school found to be in violation of a law or regulation.

(o) The department shall establish a charter student identification system that allows the department to track charter student mobility during the course of the school year.

(p) Each charter school shall provide documentation and reporting of student attrition throughout the school year, including date of leaving, reason for leaving, and where the student is now attending school. Reports shall also include all disciplinary actions, including both in- and out-of-school suspensions and referrals to law enforcement, and voluntary and involuntary exits, disaggregated by race or ethnicity, gender, age, grade level, free or reduced meal status, disability status, and English proficiency status.

(q) Before any student withdraws from a charter school, the student, his or her parent or guardian, and school personnel shall sign a document stating that the student is withdrawing voluntarily and that charter school personnel have not prohibited, discouraged, or attempted to discourage the student from continued enrollment in the charter school.

(r) Per pupil funding, provided to schools based on their enrollment, shall be adjusted throughout the school year to accommodate changes in enrollment due to mobility.

(s) Every charter school shall make its school discipline policy publicly available on the school's website, so that parents can thoroughly review the policy before enrolling their child. All charter discipline policies should include explicit provisions regarding due process for students, including the right to a hearing before long-term removal, suspension, expulsion,

disciplinary or safety transfers, or alternative school placements, as well as parental appeals and notification rights.

(t) Charter schools shall report annually on all disciplinary actions and withdrawals from the school, including the reason for the student's departure, suspension, or other action and the statement that documentation of due process rights was available. These data shall be disaggregated by race and ethnicity, gender, age, grade level, free and reduced meal status, disability status, and English proficiency status.

(u) The board shall establish standards for charter school disciplinary codes, expressly identifying and defining inappropriate strategies and barring their use and shall ensure that individual charter school discipline policies and practices are promulgated and implemented to avoid discriminatory and/or disproportionate punishments of students based on race, gender, or other characteristics and are consistent with federal school discipline laws and guidance.

(v) The board shall establish minimum qualifications for charter school treasurers.

(w) Legal services, accounting and financial auditing services provided to a charter school shall be independent of any education management company employed by the governing board of the charter school.

(x) Charter school financial documents shall be made available to the public annually on the websites of the school, the department, and any management company. These documents should include a comprehensive statement of revenues, financial and in-kind donations, state and local funding, New Market Tax Credits, bond issuances, and any and all additional funds or debt service connected to the operation of the school and/or network of schools.

(y) Charter schools shall report on administrative expenses and publish reports on expenses incurred for student recruitment and marketing.

(aa) Charter schools shall document and publicly disclose the owners of any non-public property used to house a charter school, along with documentation of the amount of rent being paid for the facility, to whom payments are being made and verification that there are no conflicts of interest between the school and the holder of the property.

(bb) All vendor or service contracts over \$25,000 at any charter school should be available as public information on the department's website.

(cc) Governing charter school board members, administrators, parents, students, educators, school staff, and community members shall be protected from retaliation for whistleblowing.

(dd) The board shall promulgate regulations for implementation and enforcement of this section.

SECTION 2.

(a) The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (hereinafter, the Department) shall gather all charter school waitlist information required by law, including student addresses, telephone numbers, and birthdates, in order to develop and maintain accurate consolidated waitlists. If the Department determines that privacy/child protection considerations warrant special security measures to protect statutorily mandated information, it shall enhance its data privacy protection measures.

(b) The Department shall develop options for more efficient and accurate waitlist processing, which may include the use of a single consolidated waitlist at the Department with a

standardized software system developed and distributed by the Department for use in processing online applications for families wishing to enroll a child in a charter school.

(c) The Department shall routinely conduct verification of charter school waitlist information.

(d) In collaboration with charter and district schools, the Department shall establish detailed guidance regarding standards and expectations for the development, dissemination, and replication of innovative programs and best practices.

(e) During the charter renewal process, the Department shall ensure that charter schools meet all the requirements for the development of innovative programs and best practices and shall establish corrective action requirements for charter schools that do not effectively fulfill this statutory purpose.

(f) The Department shall develop policies and procedures for the verification of charter schools' reported data. Such procedures shall include a program of on-site data verification as well as a system to ensure that corrective action is taken when problems are identified. DESE should continually adjust its data verification and data quality programs to reflect common data issues that are uncovered.

(g) The Department shall consistently apply its performance criteria in the charter renewal process, including requiring schools to meet the measures of success shown in their Accountability Plans.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 728
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to charter school fiscal impact and accountability
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Steven Ultrino of Malden
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	N/A
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools; Horace Mann charter schools; applications; enrollment; employees; funding

SUMMARY

This bill amends limits on net school spending and requires proposed charter schools to submit a report on projected impact on enrollment and finances of the sending district prior to charter renewal and approval. Also requires charter renewals to include a public comment period.

HOUSE No. 728

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven Ultrino and Paul J. Donato

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 charter school fiscal impact and accountability.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 728

By Representatives Ultrino of Malden and Donato of Medford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 728) of Steven Ultrino and Paul J. Donato relative to charter school projected fiscal impact on enrollment. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to charter school fiscal impact and accountability.

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (3) of subsection (i) of section 89 of chapter 71, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraphs:-

If a district is no longer in the lowest 10 per cent, the net school spending cap shall be 9 per cent, unless the district net school spending was above 9 per cent in the year prior to moving out of the lowest 10 per cent in which case the net school spending cap shall remain at the actual spending level plus enrollment previously approved by the board; provided, that for the purposes of a regional charter school, enrollment previously approved by the board shall mean the actual enrollment of students from a district as a portion of the total enrollment previously approved by the board for the regional charter school. The department shall determine and make available to the public a list of the school districts in said lowest 10 per cent.

The department shall not approve any additional seats for charter schools that originate from a sending district that moved out of the lowest 10 per cent if the net school spending cap of

the sending district was above 9 per cent at the time that the sending school district moved out of the lowest 10 per cent, provided that any district costs related to seats previously approved in contradiction to this paragraph shall be borne by the department.

The department shall provide the total tuition amount owed by the sending district calculated for each enrolled charter school student from a district that is no longer in the lowest 10 per cent who was permitted to enroll notwithstanding the net school spending cap. The department shall not require a charter school or the district to reimburse the department for said tuition amount. The state treasurer shall not deduct the tuition amount from the district's state school aid, as defined in section 2 of chapter 70 of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. Subsection (j) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

The board shall make the final determination on granting charter school status and may condition charters on the applicant's taking certain actions or maintaining certain conditions. The board shall establish criteria for the approval of a charter application and recommendations to the board shall be based upon and reference those criteria. Criteria shall, to the extent possible, include, but not be limited to, (i) the projected impact on enrollment to the sending district or districts and (ii) the projected financial impact to the sending district or districts.

SECTION 3. Subsection (dd) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

The decision by the board to renew a charter shall be based upon the presentation of affirmative evidence regarding the faithfulness of the school to the terms of its charter. The

presentation of affirmative evidence shall be made available to the public by the board at least 30 days prior to the vote to renew a school's charter. Further, the board shall solicit public comment for a period of at least 30 days prior to the board's vote to renew a school's charter. The board shall review all material submitted in support of or in opposition to the charter renewal prior to a renewal vote.

Joint Committee on Education**Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 634
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to charter school renewals
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representatives Lipper Garabedian of 32 nd Middlesex and Steven Ultrino of Malden
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	N/A
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools; Horace Mann charter schools; applications; enrollment; employees; funding

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71:89 to ensure that BESE reviews evidence of inequitable disciplinary practices and culturally insensitive policies as it considers a charter school's renewal. Additionally, the bill would allow BESE to consider any other relevant information that demonstrates negative impacts on student outcomes.

HOUSE No. 634

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Steven Ultrino

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 charter school renewals.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2025</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>4/22/2025</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/28/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 634

By Representatives Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose and Ultrino of Malden, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 634) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian, Steven Ultrino and others relative to charter school renewals. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to charter school renewals.

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

Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following after the second paragraph of subsection (dd) :

The board shall also consider evidence of inequitable disciplinary practices and culturally insensitive policies. The board may also consider any other relative information that in its judgement negatively impacts students outcomes.

Joint Committee on Education**Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 692, Senate, No. 414
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to local approval for charter schools
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Adam Scanlon of North Attleborough
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	S.414
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.692 of the 2023-2024 session; attached to H4417, HWM. H.696 of the 2021-2022 session; study.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools and Horace Mann charter schools.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71:89 by mandating that only Commonwealth charter school applications that have received the local approval of every town or school district from which they expect to enroll students shall be funded according to the provisions of the section. Any applications that are approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) without local approval shall be funded by BESE, exclusive of MGL 70 or other local funds. This act would only apply to Commonwealth charter school applications submitted after its effective date.

HOUSE No. 692

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam J. Scanlon

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 local approval for charter schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/6/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 692

By Representative Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 692) of Adam J. Scanlon relative to local approval for charter schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act local approval for charter schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “district” the following definition:-

“Local approval”, an action taken by a locally elected body to authorize local funds being allocated for a charter school, which may be approved by the following actions: by the approval of an elected school committee for each school district from which the charter school is expected to enroll students, by the approval of voters at a town meeting of each of the towns from which the charter school is expected to enroll students, or in the case of a city without an elected school committee, by a vote of the city council, by whatever title it may be known, and the Mayor.

SECTION 2. Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof, the following paragraph:-

(nn) Notwithstanding the foregoing, only commonwealth charter school applications that have received the local approval of every town or school district expected to enroll students shall

be funded pursuant to the provisions of the section. Approval of an application by the board without local approval shall be funded by the board, exclusive of Chapter 70 or other local funds. Applications that have received the aforesaid local approval for a commonwealth charter school shall comply with the provisions for such submission pursuant to the applicable provisions of the section.

SECTION 3. This act shall apply only to commonwealth charter school applications submitted after the date upon which the act becomes effective.

SENATE No. 414

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

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 local approval for charter schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Michael O. Moore

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Worcester

SENATE No. 414

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 414) of Michael O. Moore for legislation relative to local approval for charter schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 320 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to local approval for charter schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “district” the following definition:-

“Local approval”, an action taken by a locally elected body to authorize local funds being allocated for a charter school, which may be approved by the following actions: by the approval of an elected school committee for each school district from which the charter school is expected to enroll students, by the approval of voters at a town meeting of each of the towns from which the charter school is expected to enroll students, or in the case of a city without an elected school committee, by a vote of the city council, by whatever title it may be known, and the Mayor.

SECTION 2. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:-

Notwithstanding the foregoing, only commonwealth charter school applications that have received the local approval of every town or school district expected to enroll students shall be funded pursuant to the provisions of the section. Approval of an application by the board without local approval shall be funded by the board, exclusive of Chapter 70 or other local funds. Applications that have received the aforesaid local approval for a commonwealth charter school shall comply with the provisions for such submission pursuant to the applicable provisions of the section.

SECTION 3. This act shall apply only to commonwealth charter school applications submitted after the date upon which the act becomes effective.

Joint Committee on Education**Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 632
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act furthering enrollment preferences for high needs students
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representatives Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose and Peisch of Wellesley
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	N/A
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools and Horace Mann charter schools.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71:89 by inserting a new paragraph in subsection (n) which would allow charter schools to offer enrollment preferences to certain high needs students, including those in foster care, English learners, and students with special needs. Allows for these students to be admitted at any point during the school year. The bill also requires BESE to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this act, specifically about defining the student subgroups that are to be eligible for preference-based admission.

HOUSE No. 632

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 furthering enrollment preferences for high need students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 632

By Representatives Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose and Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 632) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Alice Hanlon Peisch relative to enrollment preferences for high need students at commonwealth charter schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act furthering enrollment preferences for high need students.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (n) of section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second paragraph the following paragraph:-

Subject to regulations promulgated by the board, commonwealth charter schools may voluntarily offer enrollment preferences to certain high needs students, including but not limited to, students with special needs, English learners, students in foster care or previously in foster care, or other at-risk students, and may enroll said students at any time during the school year. Said enrollment preferences shall apply both to students who are admitted through the lottery and students admitted off of the waitlist pursuant to this section.

SECTION 2. The board of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this act. At a minimum, such regulations shall define the specific student subgroups that will be eligible for enrollment preferences authorized

under Section 1, and the process for implementing said enrollment preferences; provided that students experiencing homelessness and students who have been identified as Students with Emergency Resettlement Status may be included in the list of specific student subgroups that will be eligible for said enrollment preferences.

Joint Committee on Education**Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 593
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to charter school expansion
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Richard M. Haggerty of Woburn
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	N/A
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.4306 of the 2023-2024 session; study
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools; Horace Mann charter schools; applications; enrollment; employees; funding

SUMMARY

The legislation creates a 3-year cooling-off period for any charter school after an amendment request to expand into a new school district is denied by DESE.

HOUSE No. 593

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Richard M. Haggerty

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 charter school expansion.

PETITION OF:

Name:	District/Address:	Date Added:
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Sean Reid</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>3/6/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 593

By Representative Haggerty of Woburn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 593) of
Richard M. Haggerty and Sean Reid relative to charter school expansion. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE HOUSE, NO. 4305 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to charter school expansion.

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

Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (II) the following subsection:-

(III/2) If the department rejects a charter school's request to amend its charter for the purposes of expanding the number of school districts specified in said charter, the department shall require a 3 year waiting period before the charter school may file another request to amend its charter for the purposes of expanding the number of school districts specified in said charter.

Joint Committee on Education**Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 577; Senate, No. 389
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act honoring the commonwealth's commitment to public school districts
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Brandy Fluker-Reid Senator Kennedy of 1 st Worcester
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	N/A
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:89 Commonwealth charter schools; Horace Mann charter schools; applications; enrollment; employees; funding

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71:89 by changing the reimbursement rates for districts whose total charter school tuition amount is greater than the amount of the previous year. The rate, set by this bill, will be 100% in the year of the increase, 80% the year following, 60% in the second year, and 40% the third.

HOUSE No. 577

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brandy Fluker-Reid

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 honoring the Commonwealth's commitment to public school districts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Brandy Fluker-Reid</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Christopher Richard Flanagan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>2/10/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/10/2025</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/12/2025</i>
<i>Homar Gómez</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/13/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/13/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/5/2025</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>3/11/2025</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/18/2025</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>4/1/2025</i>

<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2025</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>4/8/2025</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>5/12/2025</i>
<i>Lisa Field</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>9/3/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 577

By Representative Fluker-Reid of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 577) of Brandy Fluker-Reid and others relative to charter school tuition reimbursement. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act honoring the Commonwealth's commitment to public school districts.

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

Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (gg) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(gg) Any district whose total charter school tuition amount is greater than its total charter school tuition amount for the previous year shall be reimbursed by the commonwealth in accordance with this paragraph and subject to appropriation; provided, however, that no funds for said reimbursements shall be deducted from funds distributed pursuant to chapter 70. The district's reimbursement shall be 100 per cent of the increase in the year in which the increase occurs, 80 per cent of the increase in the year following the increase, 60 per cent of the increase in the second year following the increase and 40 per cent of the increase in the third year following the increase.

SENATE No. 389

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Robyn K. Kennedy

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 honoring the commonwealth's commitment to public school districts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2025</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/30/2025</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>2/7/2025</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/13/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/19/2025</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>3/19/2025</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>3/28/2025</i>
<i>Pavel M. Payano</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>6/23/2025</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>9/16/2025</i>

SENATE No. 389

By Ms. Kennedy, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 389) of Robyn K. Kennedy, Vanna Howard, Michael D. Brady, Jacob R. Oliveira and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to charter school reimbursed by the commonwealth. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act honoring the commonwealth's commitment to public school districts.

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

Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (gg) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(gg) Any district whose total charter school tuition amount is greater than its total charter school tuition amount for the previous year shall be reimbursed by the commonwealth in accordance with this paragraph and subject to appropriation; provided, however, that no funds for said reimbursements shall be deducted from funds distributed pursuant to chapter 70. The district's reimbursement shall be 100 per cent of the increase in the year in which the increase occurs, 80 per cent of the increase in the year following the increase, 60 per cent of the increase in the second year following the increase and 40 per cent of the increase in the third year following the increase.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary (Section-by-Section)

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 563
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act concerning the fiscal impact of charter schools on public education
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Steven Ultrino of Malden; Representative Michelle M. DuBois of Brockton
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	N/A
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.595 of the 2023-2024 session; attached without language to H4417, HWM. H.712 of the 2021-2022 session; study.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:89 (j) charges the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) with making the final determination on granting charter school status and with establishing the criteria for the approval of a charter application. MGL 71:89 (ff) pertains to how tuition amounts are calculated and paid to Commonwealth charter schools by the Commonwealth. MGL 71:89 (gg) pertains to tuition reimbursements for charter schools whose tuition amounts exceed that of the previous year. The annual reimbursement schedule is 100% to 60% to 40% of the increase from the impacted year to two years afterward.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71:89 (j) by prohibiting charter school applications from being approved before the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has presented a report to BESE on the financial impact to the sending district(s). It amends MGL 71:89 (gg) requiring DESE to annually make a request to the legislature for the full funding of the charter school tuition reimbursement under MGL 71:89 (ff) and (gg). If the legislature rejects the request, BESE shall not approve any application for a new charter school or charter school expansion in the following year.

HOUSE No. 563

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michelle M. DuBois and Steven Ultrino

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 concerning the fiscal impact of charter schools on public education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 563

By Representatives DuBois of Brockton and Ultrino of Malden, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 563) of Michelle M. DuBois relative to the fiscal impact of charter schools on public education. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 595 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act concerning the fiscal impact of charter schools on public education.

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (j) of section 89 of Chapter 71, of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended, in line 296, by inserting after the word “criteria” the following new text -; provided, that no charter application shall be approved before a report has been presented to the board by the department on the financial impact to the sending district or districts.

SECTION 2. Paragraph (gg) of said section 89, as so appearing, is hereby amended, in line 757, by inserting at the end thereof the following new text - Annually, not later than January 10 the department shall make a request to the General Court for the full funding of this reimbursement and the reimbursement calculated under paragraph (ff). If the General Court

rejects the request to fund the reimbursement, the board shall not approve any application for a new charter school or a charter school expansion in the following school year.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 540
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to charter school caps
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Day of Stoneham
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	S. 402
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools; Horace Mann charter schools; applications; enrollment; employees; funding

SUMMARY

This bill reduces district tuition payments to charter schools as a part of net school spending from 9% to 5%, removes the 18% cap, and eliminates language that allows for an increase in tuition payments to charter schools for districts that fall in the bottom 10% of all schools and districts.

HOUSE No. 540

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael S. Day

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 charter school caps.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 540

By Representative Day of Stoneham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 540) of Michael S. Day, Lindsay N. Sabadosa and James B. Eldridge relative to charter school caps. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to charter school caps.

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

SECTION 1. Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 186, the figure “9” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 5.

SECTION 2. Said section 89 of said chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 187 to 191, inclusive, the words “provided, however, that a public school district's total charter tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools shall not exceed 18 per cent of the district's net school spending if the school district qualifies under paragraph (3)”.

SECTION 3. Said section 89 of said chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 194, the figure “9” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 5.

SECTION 4. Said section 89 of said chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 195 to 196, inclusive, the words “or 18 per cent for those districts that qualify under said paragraph (3)”

SECTION 5. Said section 89 of said chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 218 to 223, inclusive, the words “the school district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools may exceed 9 per cent of the district's net school spending but shall not exceed 18 per cent. For a district qualifying under this paragraph whose charter school tuition payments exceed 9 per cent of the school district's net school spending,”

SECTION 6. Said section 89 of said chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 275 to 281, inclusive, the words “If a district is no longer in the lowest 10 per cent, the net school spending cap shall be 9 per cent, unless the district net school spending was above 9 per cent in the year prior to moving out of the lowest 10 per cent in which case the net school spending cap shall remain at the higher level plus enrollment previous approved by the board.”

SECTION 7. Said section 89 of said chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 282 to 290, subsection (i)(4) in its entirety.

Joint Committee on Education**Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 521
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to transparency and accountability in charter school finance
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Antonio F.D. Cabral of New Bedford
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	N/A
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	<p>H.439 of the 2023-2024 session; attached without language to H.4417, HWM.</p> <p>H.551 of the 2021-2022 session; study.</p>
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	<p>MGL 70:2 establishes the definitions pertaining to school funds and state aid for public schools.</p> <p>MGL 70:14 provides an exemption for any districts in which fewer than 20% of the students scored below the state average on the statewide student assessment from the provisions of MGL 70. Any district so exempted shall continue to receive FY93 base aid, but shall not receive any additional state aid and shall not be required to meet the local obligation requirements of this chapter.</p> <p>MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools and Horace Mann charter schools.</p> <p>MGL 71:89 (ff) pertains to how tuition amounts are calculated and paid to Commonwealth charter schools by the Commonwealth.</p>

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71:89 (ff) by striking the language of the section in its entirety and replacing it with functionally identical language, except for a change to calculating the local share of the total tuition amount payable to a charter school from the state school aid of the district in which the student resides as well as removing language which specifies a minimum of \$1,088 per pupil for charter school facilities needs in FY23 and thereafter.

HOUSE No. 521

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 relative to transparency and accountability in charter school finance.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/24/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>6/12/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 521

By Representative Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 521) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and Joanne M. Comerford relative to transparency and accountability in charter school finances. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 439 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to transparency and accountability in charter school finance.

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

Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking paragraph (ff) and inserting in place thereof the following:

(ff) Commonwealth charter schools shall be funded as follows: the commonwealth shall pay a tuition amount to the charter school, which shall be the sum of the tuition amounts calculated separately for each district sending students to the charter school. Tuition amounts for each sending district shall be calculated by the department using the formula set forth herein, to reflect, as much as practicable, the actual per-pupil spending amount that would be expended in the district if the students attended the district schools. The tuition amount shall be calculated separately for each district sending students to a charter school, and for each charter school to which a district sends students. Each district's per pupil tuition amount for each charter school to

which it sends students shall include a per pupil foundation budget component, adjusted to reflect the actual net school spending in the sending district.

In calculating the per pupil foundation budget component, the department shall calculate a foundation budget for the students from each sending district attending the charter school in the previous fiscal year, pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of chapter 70; provided, that the department shall not include in the said calculation the assumed tuition-out special education enrollment, nor any amounts generated by said assumed enrollment, as defined by said section 2. The per pupil foundation budget component shall be the district's foundation budget for the charter school, as so calculated, divided by the number of students attending the charter school from the sending district in the previous fiscal year. The per pupil foundation budget component shall be calculated separately for each charter school to which a district sends students. The foundation budget for a charter school shall be the sum of the foundation budgets for the charter school for each district sending students to the charter school.

In adjusting the per pupil foundation budget component, the department shall calculate for each sending district an above foundation spending percentage, which shall be the percentage by which the district's actual net school spending exceeds the foundation budget for the district, as calculated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 70. The department shall further calculate the percentage of actual net school spending reported by the sending district associated with tuition costs for tuition-out special education students, including education that occurs in educational collaboratives, and with spending on health care costs for retired employees, for any district for which such costs are included in net school spending, and shall reduce the districts above foundation spending percentage proportionately. The per pupil foundation budget component for each charter school to which the sending district sends students shall be increased by said adjusted above foundation spending percentage.

The total tuition amount payable by a sending district to a charter school shall be the per pupil tuition amount as defined above, multiplied by the total number of students attending the charter school from that district in the current fiscal year. The total charter school tuition amount for purposes of the following paragraphs shall be the sum of the district's amounts for each charter school to which the district sends students, calculated using the provisions of this section. The receiving charter school's total charter school tuition amount shall be the sum of the tuition amounts calculated for the charter school attributable to each district sending students to the charter school.

If a charter school student previously attended a private or parochial school or was home-schooled, the commonwealth shall assume the first-year cost for that student and shall not reduce the sending district's chapter 70 aid for that student's tuition in that fiscal year.

The state treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to deduct the local share of the total tuition amount payable to a charter school, as calculated herein, from the state school aid, as defined in section 2 of said Chapter 70, of the district in which the student resides prior to the distribution of said aid. For the purpose of calculating the local share amount to be deducted, the total per student foundation budget component for a district, before any adjustment, shall not exceed the statewide average per student minimum required local contribution as defined in section 2 of said Chapter 70 or as otherwise determined for any fiscal year and the amount of any adjustment attributable to above foundation spending shall not exceed the statewide average above foundation spending amount. In the case of a child residing in a municipality that belongs to a regional school district, the local share of the charter school tuition amount shall be deducted from said chapter 70 education aid of the school district appropriate to the grade level of the child. If in a single district, the total of all such deductions exceeds the total of said education aid, this excess amount shall be deducted from other aid appropriated to the city or town. If in a

single district, the total of all such deductions exceeds the total state aid appropriated, the commonwealth shall appropriate this excess amount; provided, however, that said district has exempted itself from the provisions of said chapter 70 by accepting section 14 of said chapter 70, the commonwealth shall assess said district for the said excess amount.

The state treasurer is hereby further authorized and directed to disburse to the charter school an amount equal to the charter school's total charter school tuition amount as defined above.

If more than 1 charter school is managed by a single network or board of trustees, funding shall not be transferred among individual schools within the network unless such schools are located in the same school district.

The department shall, subject to appropriation, provide funding to charter schools for a portion of the per pupil capital needs component included in the charter tuition amount and shall reimburse the sending school districts for said costs. In fiscal year 2011 and thereafter, such funding shall not be less than the per pupil amount provided in fiscal year 2010.

In the event of a charter school closing or eliminating grade levels as required by the board, the school district shall retain chapter 70 allotments for the students who attended those grade levels in the previous year.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 4511; Senate, No. 2614
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act reforming charter school funding in Massachusetts
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Mindy Domb Senator Joanne Comerford
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	New file.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:89 pertains to Commonwealth charter schools

SUMMARY

This bill tightens regulations on charter school growth, funding, and oversight, with the goal of protecting public school districts from financial strain. It imposes a strict cap limiting each district's total charter school tuition payments to 9% of its net school spending. Districts exceeding that cap as of June 30, 2025, may maintain current funding levels but cannot authorize new charter seats until spending drops below the threshold. Exceptions are made only for siblings of current charter students. The bill also eliminates prior allowances for certain districts to spend up to 18%, standardizing the cap statewide. Charter tuition costs will now be more transparently split between the state and local districts, and the full cost—both portions—will count toward the cap. In addition, the legislation expands local oversight and public input in charter decision-making. It requires assessments of proposed charter expansions on enrollment, finances, and district viability, and mandates public comment periods and hearings when requested by local officials. A five-year sliding scale reimbursement program for districts losing students to charters is restored, and if the state fails to fully fund these reimbursements, no new charters or expansions can be approved that year.

HOUSE No. 4511

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mindy Domb

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 reforming charter school funding in Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>6/24/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 4511

By Representative Domb of Amherst, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Mindy Domb relative to charter school funding. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act reforming charter school funding in Massachusetts.

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (2) of subsection (i) of section 89 of chapter 71 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2022 official edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first 2 sentences and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences:-

In any fiscal year, no public school district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools, as calculated in subsection (ff), shall exceed 9 per cent of the district's net school spending; provided, however, that a public school district whose total charter school tuition payment as of June 30, 2025, exceeds said 9 per cent shall remain at the level necessary to support current and previously authorized charter school enrollment, and provided further that no new charter school seats shall be authorized by the board for said district so long as its total charter school tuition payment exceeds said 9 per cent. The commonwealth shall incur charter school tuition payments for siblings attending commonwealth charter schools to the extent that their attendance would otherwise cause the school district's charter school tuition

payments to exceed 9 per cent of the school district's net school spending or the higher caps referenced herein.

SECTION 2. Paragraph (3) of said subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 218 to 223, inclusive, the words “the school district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools may exceed 9 per cent of the district's net school spending but shall not exceed 18 per cent. For a district qualifying under this paragraph whose charter school tuition payments exceed 9 per cent of the school district's net school spending,”.

SECTION 3. Said paragraph (3) of said subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word “school,” in line 224, the following words:- impacting said district.

SECTION 4. Said paragraph (3) of said subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the eighth sentence.

SECTION 5. Said subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out paragraph (4).

SECTION 6. Subsection (j) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the third sentence the following sentence:- The criteria shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the projected impact on enrollment to the sending district or districts; (ii) the projected financial impact on the sending district or districts; and (iii) the projected impact on the overall short- and long-term viability of the sending district or districts.

SECTION 7. Subsection (dd) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

Any material produced by the department in relation to a charter school renewal decision shall be made available to the public at least 60 days prior to a vote by the board to renew a school's charter. Furthermore, at least 60 days prior to a renewal vote, the board shall solicit public comment on the renewal for a period of at least 30 days. The board shall review all material submitted in support of or in opposition to the charter renewal prior to a renewal vote. In the event that the board delegates full or partial authority to the commissioner to make charter school renewal decisions, the same public notice and public comment timelines shall apply.

SECTION 8. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after subsection (dd) the following subsection:-

(dd1/2) In the case of a charter school seeking an expansion of seats from the board, there shall be a public hearing on the expansion if a member of the school committee in any potentially impacted district makes the request to the department within 30 days of public notification of the expansion request. The board shall hold the hearing in the school district, providing for the option to participate virtually, in which the proposed expansion would take place, in accordance with the public hearing requirements outlined in subsection (h).

The board shall establish criteria for the approval of a charter school expansion request, and recommendations to the board shall be based upon and reference those criteria. The criteria shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the projected impact on enrollment to the sending district or districts; (ii) the projected financial impact on the sending district or districts; (iii) the projected impact on the overall short- and long-term viability of the sending district or districts; and (iv) the degree to which the charter school seeking expansion serves and demonstrates an intent to serve student populations representative of the sending district or districts, including but not limited to the categories of students enumerated in paragraph (3) of subsection (i).

SECTION 9. Subsection (ff) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the the fourth paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following 2 paragraphs:-

For each sending district, the total tuition amount transmitted to a charter school shall be the per pupil tuition amount as defined above, multiplied by the total number of students attending the charter school from that district in the current fiscal year. Funding to cover said total tuition amount shall be shared by the district and state as follows: the district's portion shall be the sum of (i) the per pupil facilities component and (ii) the unadjusted per pupil foundation budget component as calculated in paragraph 2 of this subsection, multiplied by the total number of students attending the charter school from that district in the current fiscal year; and the state's portion shall be any above foundation rate as calculated in paragraph 3 of this subsection multiplied by the total number of students attending the charter school from that district in the current fiscal year.

The sending district's total charter school tuition amount for purposes of the following paragraphs shall be the sum of the district's portion of tuition amounts for each charter school to which the district sends students, calculated using the provisions of this section; provided, however, that for the the purposes of calculating a district's total charter school tuition payment as a percentage of net school spending pursuant to subsection (i), the tuition amounts inclusive of both the district and state portions shall be used. The receiving charter school's total charter school tuition amount shall be the sum of the tuition amounts inclusive of both the district and state portions calculated for the charter school for each district sending students to the charter school.

SECTION 10. Subsection (gg) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 3 sentences:-

The district's reimbursement shall be 100 per cent of the increase in the year in which the increase occurs, 80 per cent of the increase in the year following the increase, 60 per cent of the increase in the second year following the increase, 40 per cent of the increase in the third year following the increase and 20 per cent in the fourth year following the increase.

Annually, on a date to be established by the executive office for administration and finance, the department shall make a request to the governor and the general court for the full funding of this reimbursement and the reimbursement calculated under subsection (ff). If the general court does not fully fund the reimbursement account, the board shall not approve any application for a new charter school or a charter school expansion during the fiscal year in which the reimbursement account is underfunded.

SENATE No. 2614

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 reforming charter school funding in Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Joanne M. Comerford

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester

SENATE No. 2614

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2614) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to reform charter school funding in Massachusetts. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act reforming charter school funding in Massachusetts.

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (2) of subsection (i) of section 89 of chapter 71 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2022 official edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first 2 sentences and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences:-

In any fiscal year, no public school district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools, as calculated in subsection (ff), shall exceed 9 per cent of the district's net school spending; provided, however, that a public school district whose total charter school tuition payment as of June 30, 2025, exceeds said 9 per cent shall remain at the level necessary to support current and previously authorized charter school enrollment, and provided further that no new charter school seats shall be authorized by the board for said district so long as its total charter school tuition payment exceeds said 9 per cent. The commonwealth shall incur charter school tuition payments for siblings attending commonwealth charter schools to the extent that their attendance would otherwise cause the school district's charter school tuition

payments to exceed 9 per cent of the school district's net school spending or the higher caps referenced herein.

SECTION 2. Paragraph (3) of said subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 218 to 223, inclusive, the words “the school district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools may exceed 9 per cent of the district's net school spending but shall not exceed 18 per cent. For a district qualifying under this paragraph whose charter school tuition payments exceed 9 per cent of the school district's net school spending,”.

SECTION 3. Said paragraph (3) of said subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word “school,” in line 224, the following words:- impacting said district.

SECTION 4. Said paragraph (3) of said subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the eighth sentence.

SECTION 5. Said subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out paragraph (4).

SECTION 6. Subsection (j) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the third sentence the following sentence:- The criteria shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the projected impact on enrollment to the sending district or districts; (ii) the projected financial impact on the sending district or districts; and (iii) the projected impact on the overall short- and long-term viability of the sending district or districts.

SECTION 7. Subsection (dd) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

Any material produced by the department in relation to a charter school renewal decision shall be made available to the public at least 60 days prior to a vote by the board to renew a school's charter. Furthermore, at least 60 days prior to a renewal vote, the board shall solicit public comment on the renewal for a period of at least 30 days. The board shall review all material submitted in support of or in opposition to the charter renewal prior to a renewal vote. In the event that the board delegates full or partial authority to the commissioner to make charter school renewal decisions, the same public notice and public comment timelines shall apply.

SECTION 8. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after subsection (dd) the following subsection:-

(dd1/2) In the case of a charter school seeking an expansion of seats from the board, there shall be a public hearing on the expansion if a member of the school committee in any potentially impacted district makes the request to the department within 30 days of public notification of the expansion request. The board shall hold the hearing in the school district, providing for the option to participate virtually, in which the proposed expansion would take place, in accordance with the public hearing requirements outlined in subsection (h).

The board shall establish criteria for the approval of a charter school expansion request, and recommendations to the board shall be based upon and reference those criteria. The criteria shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the projected impact on enrollment to the sending district or districts; (ii) the projected financial impact on the sending district or districts; (iii) the projected impact on the overall short- and long-term viability of the sending district or districts; and (iv) the degree to which the charter school seeking expansion serves and demonstrates an intent to serve student populations representative of the sending district or districts, including but not limited to the categories of students enumerated in paragraph (3) of subsection (i).

SECTION 9. Subsection (ff) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the the fourth paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following 2 paragraphs:-

For each sending district, the total tuition amount transmitted to a charter school shall be the per pupil tuition amount as defined above, multiplied by the total number of students attending the charter school from that district in the current fiscal year. Funding to cover said total tuition amount shall be shared by the district and state as follows: the district's portion shall be the sum of (i) the per pupil facilities component and (ii) the unadjusted per pupil foundation budget component as calculated in paragraph 2 of this subsection, multiplied by the total number of students attending the charter school from that district in the current fiscal year; and the state's portion shall be any above foundation rate as calculated in paragraph 3 of this subsection multiplied by the total number of students attending the charter school from that district in the current fiscal year.

The sending district's total charter school tuition amount for purposes of the following paragraphs shall be the sum of the district's portion of tuition amounts for each charter school to which the district sends students, calculated using the provisions of this section; provided, however, that for the the purposes of calculating a district's total charter school tuition payment as a percentage of net school spending pursuant to subsection (i), the tuition amounts inclusive of both the district and state portions shall be used. The receiving charter school's total charter school tuition amount shall be the sum of the tuition amounts inclusive of both the district and state portions calculated for the charter school for each district sending students to the charter school.

SECTION 10. Subsection (gg) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 3 sentences:-

The district's reimbursement shall be 100 per cent of the increase in the year in which the increase occurs, 80 per cent of the increase in the year following the increase, 60 per cent of the increase in the second year following the increase, 40 per cent of the increase in the third year following the increase and 20 per cent in the fourth year following the increase.

Annually, on a date to be established by the executive office for administration and finance, the department shall make a request to the governor and the general court for the full funding of this reimbursement and the reimbursement calculated under subsection (ff). If the general court does not fully fund the reimbursement account, the board shall not approve any application for a new charter school or a charter school expansion during the fiscal year in which the reimbursement account is underfunded.