

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #:	H.3983
Title:	An Act relative to establishing a workforce training trust fund for emerging technologies
Sponsor:	Rep. Kip Diggs
Committee:	Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
Hearing Date:	September 25, 2025
Reporting Deadline:	November 24, 2025 (subject to extensions under House Rule 27)
Prior History:	N/A-New File
Key Terms:	<p>Commonwealth Corporation is a quasi-public workforce development agency within the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. This agency administers several workforce and youth development programs through partnerships with businesses, educators, and other workforce organizations across the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Corporation works with the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development to administer the Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund and the Workforce Competitiveness Training Fund.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Corporation Foundation is a foundation within the Commonwealth Corporation that supports the mission of the agency. The goal of the foundation is to provide financial support to Commonwealth Corporation and to achieve meaningful employment and upward mobility for all by bridging resource gaps to target unmet needs in workforce development and by empowering workers and employers in Massachusetts through strategic partnerships with the business community, organized events, and grant-making.</p>
Current Law:	Chapter 23H of MGL concerns workforce development.

- Section 1 of this chapter establishes the Department of Career Services within the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

Chapter 29 of MGL governs state finance. This chapter outlines how the state manages its money, including budgeting, fund transfers, debt limits, and taxation. It also establishes and governs various state funds.

- Section 2RR establishes the Workforce Training Fund, which shall be administered by the Department of Career Services and the Commonwealth Corporation. This fund provides grants to Massachusetts businesses to fund training for their current and newly hired employees. The grants aim to enhance employee skills, improve business productivity and competitiveness, and ultimately contribute to the economic growth in the state.
- Section 2WWW establishes the Workforce Competitiveness Training Fund, which shall be administered by the Department of Career Services and the Commonwealth Corporation. This provides funding to Massachusetts businesses and training providers to enhance worker skills and address employers' hiring needs. This supports training programs that increase worker productivity, retention, and incomes, ultimately boosting the state's workforce quality and competitiveness.

Chapter 365 Section 64 of the Acts of 1996 established the Commonwealth Corporation by merging two former Massachusetts nonprofit organizations: the Industrial Service Program and the Bay State Skills Corporation.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 29 of MGL, which governs state finance, by inserting a new section, section 2KKKKKK. This new section establishes the Emerging Technologies Workforce Training Fund which shall be administered by the department of career services and the Commonwealth Corporation Foundation. This fund shall be used for grants for schools and training organizations to develop programs in blockchain, AI, cybersecurity, and renewable energy; scholarships, paid internships, and awards to support careers in these fields, especially for underrepresented populations; partnerships with private companies to provide work-based learning, such as apprenticeships and on the job training; public awareness campaigns to promote careers and training in these fields; regional workforce strategies to

address local labor needs; and collaborations with private companies to share funding responsibility and show industry support.

The bill also requires the Commonwealth Corporation Foundation to prepare an annual report for the general court regarding the activity of this fund by December 31 each year. This report shall detail the number and type of grants awarded; the number of participants trained and employed as a result of the fund's programming; the amount of private sector contributions leveraged; and recommendations for improvements to the fund's programming.

Section 1 of this bill amends Chapter 29 of MGL by inserting a new section after section 2JJJJJJ, section 2KKKKKK.

Subsection (a) of this new section establishes the Emerging Technologies Workforce Training Trust Fund. This fund shall be administered by the department of career services in collaboration with the Commonwealth Corporation Foundation.

Subsection (b) lists the funding sources for this fund. These funding sources shall include revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; interest earned on money in the fund; contributions from private sector entities, including technology firms, foundations, and other organizations; and federal grants and other gifts, grants and donations for the establishment and expansion of workforce training programs, including programs in blockchain, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and renewable energy technologies. Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and any money remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

Subsection (c) outlines for what purposes the Commonwealth Corporation, in consultation with the department of career services, shall make expenditures from the fund for. These purposes shall include:

- Providing grants to institutions of higher education, vocational technical schools and workforce training organizations for the development and implementation of training programs in blockchain, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and renewable energy technologies
- Sponsoring scholarships, paid internships and award programs to support individuals pursuing careers in blockchain, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and renewable energy technologies with a focus on individuals from underrepresented populations

- Partnering with private companies to create work-based learning opportunities, including apprenticeships and on the job training
- Funding public awareness campaigns to promote careers in emerging technologies and available training opportunities
- Developing regional workforce strategies in collaboration with regional employment boards to address specific labor market needs
- Partnering with technology firms in the commonwealth to reduce state funding burdens and demonstrate industry buy-in

Subsection (d) requires the Commonwealth Corporation Foundation to prepare an annual report on the activity of this fund. This report shall include information regarding the number and type of grants awarded; the number of participants trained and employed as a result of the fund's programs; the amount of private sector contributions leveraged; any recommendations for improvements to the fund's programs. This annual report shall be submitted no later than December 31 to the chairs of the joint committee on advanced information technology, the internet and cybersecurity; chairs of the joint committee on labor and workforce development; house and senate committees on ways and means; and clerks of the house of representatives and senate.

Subsection (e) requires the annual report to be published on the Commonwealth Corporation Foundation's website and shall be distributed to stakeholders.

Section 2 states that this act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.