

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1205**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul Brodeur***

*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 training tomorrow’s truck drivers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Paul Brodeur*

*David F. DeCoste*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*32nd Middlesex*

*5th Plymouth*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1205**

By Mr. Brodeur of Melrose, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1205) of Paul Brodeur and David F. DeCoste that the board of higher education be authorized to establish a program to support training and education programs that address the workforce shortages of truck drivers for the commercial transportation industry. Higher Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to training tomorrow’s truck drivers.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,  
2 shall be amended, after section 2VVVV, by inserting the following new section:-

3 Section 2WWWW. There shall be established and set upon the books of the  
4 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Truck Driver Training Fund. The fund shall  
5 be administered by the board of higher education. The fund shall be used to administer a  
6 program to support training and education programs that address the workforce shortages of  
7 truck drivers for the commercial transportation industry with the goal of training students,  
8 creating new jobs, retaining and upgrading existing jobs, and retraining existing workers to  
9 implement new technologies and to help meet the workforce needs of the trucking industry. The  
10 fund shall be credited with all revenues collected from the surcharge imposed by section 8 of  
11 chapter 90. The fund shall not be subject to section 5C of chapter 29.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 74 of the General Laws is hereby amended at the end thereof by  
13 adding the following section:-

14 Section 58. The board of higher education shall establish and maintain, in cooperation  
15 with local public and vocational school authorities, postsecondary technical schools and the  
16 boards of trustees of community colleges, a program to support training and education programs  
17 that address the workforce shortages of truck drivers for the commercial transportation industry  
18 with the goal of training students, creating new jobs, retaining and upgrading existing jobs, and  
19 retraining existing workers to implement new technologies and to help meet the workforce  
20 needs of the trucking industry within the Commonwealth.

21 There shall be a grant program, funded by the Truck Driver Training Fund, to  
22 implement this section to which employers shall have access to:

23 (i) identify, support or establish collaborative regional partnerships including, but not  
24 limited to, employers, workforce development and education organizations, regional economic  
25 development organizations established pursuant to sections 3J and 3K of chapter 23A and  
26 economic development officials where a demand for truck drivers exists;

27 (ii) address critical workforce shortages for truck drivers in the commercial motor  
28 transportation sector;

29 (iii) improve and increase employment opportunities for truck drivers in the  
30 commercial motor transportation sector for low-income individuals, women, minorities and  
31 veterans;

32 (iv) provide training and educational or career ladder services for employed or  
33 unemployed truck drivers in the commercial motor transportation sector who are seeking new  
34 positions or responsibilities within the industry;

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

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

39 For the purposes of the grant program, “eligible applicants” shall include, but not be  
40 limited to: (i) employers and employer associations; (ii) local workforce investment boards; (iii)  
41 institutions of higher education; (iv) kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, and vocational  
42 education institutions; (v) private for-profit and nonprofit organizations providing education and  
43 workforce training; (vi) 1-stop career centers; (vii) local workforce development entities; and  
44 (viii) any partnership or collaboration between eligible applicants. Any funds allocated through  
45 the program shall complement and not replace existing local, state, private or federal funding for  
46 training and educational programs.

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

48 (i) a plan that defines specific goals for increasing the number of truck drivers in the  
49 commercial motor transportation sector;

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

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

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

55 (v) the proposed number of individuals who would be enrolled, complete training and  
56 be placed into employment within the trucking or related industries.

57 The board of higher education shall, in consultation with the executive office of  
58 housing and economic development, executive office of labor and workforce development, the  
59 department of education and entities representing parties who are eligible to participate in the  
60 grant program, develop guidelines for an annual review of the progress being made by each  
61 grantee. A grantee shall participate in any evaluation or accountability process implemented by  
62 or authorized by the commonwealth corporation. The board shall file annual reports for the  
63 duration of the programs with the chairs of the house and senate committee on ways and means,  
64 the chairs of the joint committee on labor and workforce development and the chairs of the joint  
65 committee on economic development and emerging technologies not later than January 1;  
66 provided, however, that the report shall include an overview of the activities of the programs, the  
67 number of participants in the programs and the employment outcomes in the programs.

68 SECTION 3. Section 8 of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
69 amended by inserting the following new paragraph at the end thereof:-

70 There shall be a surcharge of \$5 on all applications for licensure or renewal of a  
71 commercial drivers license. The surcharge shall be transferred by the registrar of motor vehicles  
72 to the state treasurer for deposit into the Truck Driver Training Fund established in section  
73 2WWW of chapter 29.

74 SECTION 4. Section 8B of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
75 amended by inserting the following new paragraph at the end thereof:-

76 The registrar, in consultation with the board of higher education, shall provide  
77 information to applicants who receive a learners' permit about careers as a truck driver and  
78 diesel mechanic.