

HOUSE No. 1852

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jeffrey Sánchez

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act making investments in youth employment and educational pathways.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jeffrey Sánchez
John A. Hart, Jr.

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

15th Suffolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT MAKING INVESTMENTS IN YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS.

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

1 YOUTH SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2009

2 The purpose of this Act is to promote and support activities and programs that will increase the
3 education, skills and employment of Massachusetts's youth and their successful integration into
4 the Massachusetts economy.

5 Whereas employers choose Massachusetts and stay in Massachusetts because of the quality of
6 its workforce, and whereas Massachusetts also leads the nation in innovation, technology
7 utilization, and attracting capital, all reflecting a quality workforce, the workforce is a critical
8 asset of Massachusetts' economic well-being. However, recent trends in teen unemployment,
9 high school dropouts, employer skill demands, demographic shifts within the United States, and
10 immigration into Massachusetts, point to a need to protect our most competitive asset, the
11 education and skills of our emerging workforce.

12 Whereas the youth workforce development system in Massachusetts consists of a number of
13 programs across various state agencies, there is a need for better coordination and alignment.
14 We must address the needs of young people out of the labor market and out-of-work, those
15 who have either dropped out of school or are at risk for dropping out; the achievement gap
16 within the public school system; and the development of educational pathways for young
17 people to obtain a post secondary education which is increasingly needed for successful entry
18 into the labor market. There is no alternative if Massachusetts is to fulfill the promise to all our
19 youth and enable them to succeed in our economy.