

HOUSE No. 336

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Lida E. Harkins

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 establishing a Massachusetts work-family council.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Lida E. Harkins	13th Norfolk
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk
Antonio F.D. Cabral	13th Bristol
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Susan C. Tucker	Second Essex and Middlesex
Karen E. Spilka	Second Middlesex and Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 361 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MASSACHUSETTS WORK-FAMILY COUNCIL.

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 23 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new section:-

3 (a) There shall be a work family council in the executive office of labor and workforce
4 development. This mission of the council shall be to develop broadly shared understandings of
5 critical work-family issues in the commonwealth, and to promote through privately funded
6 research, experimentation, and education responsive public policies and innovative private sector
7 practices.

8 The council shall consist of the following persons or their designees: the director of the
9 department of business and technology; the director of the department of labor; the secretary of
10 the executive office of labor and workforce development; the assistant secretary of the office of
11 children, youth and family services; the secretary of the executive office of elder affairs; the
12 secretary of the executive office of health and human services; the director of MassHealth; the

13 secretary of the executive office of transportation; the director of the department of housing and
14 community development; the commissioner of the department of education; the personnel
15 administrator of the commonwealth; the chief information officer of the commonwealth; the
16 commissioner of the department of early education and care; the president of the associated
17 industries of Massachusetts; the president of the smaller business association of New England; 3
18 persons to be appointed by the governor; 3 persons to be appointed by the president of the
19 senate; 3 persons to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 3 persons to be
20 appointed by the caucus of women legislators; 1 person to be appointed by the minority leader of
21 the senate; and 1 person to be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;
22 provided, however that each appointed member shall be from 1 of the following categories and
23 no appointing authority shall appoint more than 1 member from the same category:-

24 (1) a member of a legislative committee or administrative agency with responsibility for
25 issues of economic development or working family support;

26 (2) an employer or manager of a business representing a key sector of the Massachusetts
27 economy;

28 (3) an official of an AFL-CIO member union representing public sector or private sector
29 workers;

30 (4) a member of a professional association;

31 (5) a member of a women's professional association;

32 (6) a member of a low income advocacy group;

33 (7) a member of a community-based service organization, including secular and non-secular
34 faith-based institutions.

35 (b) Members of the council shall be individuals who have demonstrated leadership in seeking
36 innovative, positive solutions to work-family problems. Members shall serve for a term of 2
37 years and may be reappointed.

38 (c) The council shall annually elect a chairperson from among its members. The council may
39 adopt new rules for the appointment of members, and may increase or decrease the number of
40 members.

41 (d) The council shall meet at least 4 times annually.

42 (e) The council shall appoint an executive director who shall appoint staff as needed. Staff may
43 seek funds from public and private sources to support the work of the council.

44 (f) The council shall select a panel of academic advisers to provide information and guidance on
45 council activities. An academic adviser shall not receive compensation from the council but may
46 be reimbursed for customary expenses incident to the advisor's service.

47 (g) The duties of the council shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:-

48 (1) conduct hearings to identify the major work-family issues in the commonwealth;

49 (2) collect and maintain data and information concerning work-family issues, including
50 but not limited to employer policies and practices;

51 (3) employ dialogue and negotiation among stakeholders with differing interests in work-
52 family conflicts to advance the potential for problem solving that supports both workplace
53 productivity and family care;

54 (4) design and implement pilot projects as requested by employers;

55 (5) propose public policy solutions to work-family issues;

56 (6) promote successful policies and practices in the public and private sectors and create a
57 repository of best practices;

58 (7) provide public education on work-family issues and on the need for public policies
59 and private workplace practices that support the well-being of both employers and families.

60 (h) The council shall submit a bi-annual written report of its activities to the secretary of
61 economic development and housing and the secretary of labor and workforce development. The
62 report shall include information on the groups actively involved in council meetings and
63 projects; outcomes of research sponsored by the council; the adoption and results of public
64 policy initiatives; the outcomes of experiments and pilot projects in workplaces; the experience
65 with techniques of multi-stakeholder dialogue and negotiation; and the purposes and scope of
66 public education projects undertaken.

67 SECTION 2. This act shall expire on December 31, 2012.