

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4083**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Marjorie C. Decker*

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*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 the Massachusetts robotics center.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Marjorie C. Decker*

*25th Middlesex*

*Sal N. DiDomenico*

*Middlesex and Suffolk*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4083**

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Marjorie C. Decker and Sal N. DiDomenico for legislation to authorize the establishment of the Massachusetts robotics center. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**

An Act establishing the Massachusetts robotics center.

*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. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 23L the  
2 following chapter:-

3 Chapter 23M. THE MASSACHUSETTS ROBOTICS CENTER.

4 Section 1. As used in this chapter, the following words shall, unless the context clearly  
5 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:--

6 “Affiliate”, any business which directly or indirectly controls or is controlled by or is  
7 under direct or indirect common control of another business including, but not limited to, any  
8 business with which a business is merged or consolidated, or which purchases all or substantially  
9 all of the assets of a business.

10 “Board”, the board of directors of the Massachusetts Robotics Center.

11 “Center”, the Massachusetts Robotics Center established by section 2.

12 “Certification proposal”, a written proposal submitted by a robotics company for  
13 approval as a certified robotics company pursuant to section 4.

14 “Certified robotics company”, a company that has been certified by the center for  
15 participation in the commonwealth robotics investment program and the robotics tax incentive  
16 program, established by section 4.

17 “Company”, a business corporation, partnership, firm, unincorporated association or  
18 other entity engaged or proposing to engage in economic activity within the commonwealth, and  
19 any affiliate thereof, which is, or the members of which are, subject to taxation under chapter 62,  
20 63, 64H or 64I.

21 “Department”, the department of revenue established pursuant to section 1 of chapter 14.

22 “Eligible new job”, a new job that shall not replace an existing job in the commonwealth  
23 and which may be a retained job; provided, however, that “eligible new job” may be further  
24 defined by rules, regulations or guidelines promulgated by the center pursuant to section 4;  
25 provided further, that an “eligible new job” shall be deemed to have been created in the  
26 commonwealth on the first day for which Massachusetts personal income tax withholding is  
27 required in connection with the compensation paid to an employee of a robotics company or the  
28 first day for which Massachusetts estimated tax payments are payable by a partner of a  
29 partnership constituting a robotics company.

30 “Enterprise”, a small business, as defined in chapter 23A, which has its principal place of  
31 business in the commonwealth and is, or proposes to be, engaged in research and development or  
32 manufacturing in the robotics industry.

33           “Equity investment”, (a) a share in a robotics company certified pursuant to section 5,  
34 whether or not transferable or denominated stock, or similar security; (b) interest of a limited  
35 partner in a limited partnership; or (c) warrant or right, other than a right to convert, to purchase,  
36 sell or subscribe to a share, security or interest of a kind specified in clauses (a) or (b); provided,  
37 however, that when making an equity investment in an enterprise pursuant to section 7, the  
38 center shall receive not less than 3 per cent of the equity in said enterprise.

39           “Independent research institution”, a nonprofit research organization that holds tax-  
40 exempt status granted under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall be  
41 organized and operated exclusively for scientific or educational purposes; provided, however,  
42 that “independent research institution” shall not mean a hospital, college, university or private  
43 foundation.

44           “New state revenue”, revenue derived from a robotics company by the creation of any  
45 eligible new jobs or by new commercial activity that would otherwise not have taken place in the  
46 commonwealth or as may be defined by any rules or regulations promulgated by the center  
47 pursuant to section 4.

48           “Permanent full-time employee”, an individual who: (i) is in an employment relationship  
49 which, at its inception, does not have a termination date which is a date certain or which is  
50 determined with reference to the completion of some specified scope of work; (ii) works a  
51 minimum number of weekly hours as the center may specify by rule, regulation or guideline; and  
52 (iii) receives employee benefits at least equal to those provided to other full-time employees of  
53 the employer, which shall be a robotics company.

54           “Person”, a natural person, corporation, association, partnership or other legal entity.

55 “Program”, the commonwealth robotics investment program established by section 4.

56 “Professional investor”, a bank, bank holding company, savings institution, trust  
57 company, insurance company, investment company registered under the federal Investment  
58 Company Act of 1940, pension or profit-sharing trust or other financial institution or institutional  
59 buyer, licensee under the federal Small Business Investment Act of 1958 or any person,  
60 partnership or other entity of whose resources a substantial amount shall be dedicated to  
61 investing in securities or debt instruments and whose net worth exceeds \$250,000.

62 “Real estate project”, real property where, after a robotics company is certified,  
63 construction or renovation shall be initiated which, when completed, shall result in an increase in  
64 the assessed value of the real property of at least 100 per cent over its assessed value as of the  
65 date of certification; provided, however, that if a real estate facility is a business incubator  
66 facility and is designated as a certified robotics company pursuant to section 4, each business  
67 which executes a binding lease for space in that facility after the date on which the construction  
68 or renovation activity begins shall be eligible for separate designation as a certified robotics  
69 company.

70 “Revenue”, receipts, fees, rentals or other payments or income received or to be received  
71 on account of obligations to the center including, but not limited to, income on account of the  
72 leasing, mortgaging, sale or other disposition of a project or proceeds of a loan made by the  
73 center in connection with any project, and amounts in reserves or held in other funds or accounts  
74 established in connection with the issuance of bonds and the proceeds of any investments  
75 thereof, proceeds of foreclosure and any other fees, charges or other income received or  
76 receivable by the center.

77           “Robotics”, advanced and applied sciences that conceptualize, design, integrate, adapt,  
78 evaluate, construct, and expand the understanding of, autonomous systems or machines that are  
79 programmable by computer and capable of carrying out a complex series of actions  
80 automatically, and the components thereof, including, but not limited to, software,  
81 electromechanical systems, artificial intelligence technologies, mobility technologies and  
82 perception technologies.

83           “Robotics company”, a business corporation, partnership, firm, unincorporated  
84 association or other entity engaged in robotics research, development, manufacturing or  
85 commercialization in the commonwealth, and any affiliate thereof, which is, or the members of  
86 which are, subject to taxation under chapter 62, 63, 64H or 64I.

87           “Vocational technical school”, education institutions established pursuant to sections 14  
88 and 15 of chapter 71, providing vocational technical education as defined in section 1 of chapter  
89 74.

90           Section 2. (a) There is hereby created a body politic and corporate to be known as the  
91 Massachusetts Robotics Center. The center is hereby constituted a public instrumentality and the  
92 exercise by the center of the powers conferred by this chapter shall be considered to be the  
93 performance of an essential governmental function.

94           The center is hereby placed in the executive office of economic development but shall not  
95 be subject to the supervision, or control of said office, or of any board, bureau, department or  
96 other center of the commonwealth, except as specifically provided in this chapter.

97           (b) The center shall be governed and its corporate powers exercised by a board of  
98 directors to consist of the secretary of administration and finance or a designee, the secretary of

99 housing and economic development or a designee the president of the University of  
100 Massachusetts or a designee and 4 directors to be appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be  
101 a researcher involved in the commercialization of robotics, 1 of whom shall be a chief executive  
102 officer of a Massachusetts-based robotics corporation which is a member of the board of  
103 directors of the Mass Technology Leadership Council and 1 of whom shall have significant  
104 financial experience in the robotics sector.

105 Each appointed member shall serve a term of 5 years, except that in making the initial  
106 appointments, the governor shall appoint 1 director to serve for a term of 1 year, 1 director to  
107 serve for a term of 2 years, 1 director to serve for a term of 3 years, 1 director to serve for a term  
108 of 4 years. The secretary of the executive office of administration and finance and the secretary  
109 of the executive office of housing and economic development, or their designees, shall serve as  
110 co-chairs of the board. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of an appointed  
111 director of the board shall be appointed in a like manner and shall serve for only the unexpired  
112 term of such director. Any director shall be eligible for reappointment. Any director may be  
113 removed from an appointment by the governor for cause.

114 (c) Four directors shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of  
115 directors present at a duly called meeting if a quorum is present shall be necessary for any action  
116 to be taken by the board. Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the  
117 directors may be taken without a meeting if all of the directors' consent in writing to such action  
118 and such written consent is filed with the records of the minutes of the meetings of the board.  
119 Such consent shall be treated for all purposes as a vote at a meeting. Each director shall make  
120 full disclosure, under subsection (d), of a financial interest, if any, in matters before the board by  
121 notifying the state ethics commission, in writing, and shall abstain from voting on any matter

122 before the board in which he has a financial interest, unless otherwise permissible under chapter  
123 268A. The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but each member shall be  
124 entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of  
125 official duties.

126 (d) The provisions of chapter 268A shall apply to all ex-officio directors or their  
127 designees and employees of the center. The provisions of chapter 268A shall apply to all other  
128 directors of the center, except that the center may purchase from, sell to, borrow from, loan to,  
129 contract with or otherwise deal with any person in which any director of the center is in any way  
130 interested or involved; provided, however, that such interest or involvement is disclosed in  
131 advance to the members of the board and recorded in the minutes of the board; and provided,  
132 further, that no director having such an interest or involvement may participate in any decision of  
133 the board relating to such person. Employment by the commonwealth or service in any agency  
134 thereof shall not be deemed to be such an interest or involvement.

135 (e) The board shall appoint and employ a president, and fix the president's compensation  
136 and conditions of employment. The president shall be the chief executive, administrative and  
137 operational officer of the center and shall direct and supervise administrative affairs and the  
138 general management of the center. The president shall appoint and employ a chief financial and  
139 accounting officer and may, subject to the general supervision of the board, employ other  
140 employees, consultants, agents, including legal counsel, and advisors, and shall attend meetings  
141 of the board. The chief financial and accounting officer of the center shall be in charge of its  
142 funds, books of account and accounting records. No funds shall be transferred by the center  
143 without the approval of the board and the signatures of the chief financial and accounting officer  
144 and the treasurer, as appointed by the board pursuant to subsection (g).



145 (f) Neither the center nor any of its officers, agents, employees, consultants or advisors  
146 shall be subject to the provisions of sections 9A, 45, 46 and 52 of chapter 30, or to chapter 31, or  
147 to chapter 200 of the acts of 1976.

148 (g) The board shall bi-annually elect 1 of its members as treasurer and 1 of its members  
149 as secretary. The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the board and shall be  
150 custodian of all books, documents, and papers filed by the board and of its minute book and seal.  
151 The secretary shall cause copies to be made of all minutes and other records and documents of  
152 the center and shall certify that such copies are true copies, and all persons dealing with the  
153 center may rely upon such certification.

154 (h) All officers and employees of the center having access to its cash or negotiable  
155 securities shall give bond to the center at its expense in such amounts and with such surety as the  
156 board may prescribe. The persons required to give bond may be included in one or more blanket  
157 or scheduled bonds.

158 (i) Board members and officers who are not compensated employees of the center shall  
159 not be liable to the commonwealth, to the center or to any other person as a result of their  
160 activities, whether ministerial or discretionary, as such board members or officers except for  
161 willful dishonesty or intentional violations of law. Neither members of the center nor any person  
162 executing bonds or policies of insurance shall be liable personally thereon or be subject to any  
163 personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance thereof. The board of directors may  
164 purchase liability insurance for board members, officers and employees and may indemnify said  
165 persons against claims of others.

166 (j) The center shall continue as long as it shall have bonds or insurance or guarantee  
167 commitments outstanding and until its existence is terminated by law. Upon the termination of  
168 the existence of the center, all right, title and interest in and to all of its assets and all of its  
169 obligations, duties, covenants, agreements and obligations shall vest in and be possessed,  
170 performed and assumed by the commonwealth.

171 (k) Any action of the center may take effect immediately and need not be published or  
172 posted unless otherwise provided by law. Meetings of the center shall be subject to sections 20  
173 and 21 of chapter 30A; but, said sections 20 and 21 shall not apply to any meeting of members of  
174 the center serving ex officio in the exercise of their duties as officers of the commonwealth so  
175 long as no matters relating to the official business of the center are discussed and decided at the  
176 meeting. The center shall be subject to all other provisions of said chapter 30A, and records  
177 pertaining to the administration of the authority shall be subject to section 42 of chapter 30 and  
178 section 10 of chapter 66. All moneys of the center shall be considered to be public funds for  
179 purposes of chapter 12A. The operations of the center shall be subject to chapter 268A and  
180 chapter 268B and all other operational or administrative standards or requirements to the same  
181 extent as the office of the state treasurer.

182 (l) Any documentary materials or data whatsoever made or received by any member or  
183 employee of the center and consisting of, or to the extent that such materials or data consist of,  
184 trade secrets or commercial or financial information regarding the operation of any business  
185 conducted by an applicant for any form of assistance which the center is empowered to render or  
186 regarding the competitive position of such applicant in a particular field of endeavor, shall not be  
187 deemed public records of the center and specifically shall not be subject to the provisions of  
188 section 10 of chapter 66. Any discussion or consideration of such trade secrets or commercial or

189 financial information may be held by the board in executive sessions closed to the public  
190 notwithstanding the provisions of sections 20 and 21 of chapter 30A, but the purpose of any such  
191 executive session shall be set forth in the official minutes of the center and no business which is  
192 not directly related to such purpose shall be transacted nor shall any vote be taken during such  
193 executive session.

194 Section 3. (a) The center shall have all powers necessary or convenient to carry out and  
195 effectuate its purposes, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the powers:

196 (1) to adopt and amend bylaws, regulations and procedures for the governance of its  
197 affairs and the conduct of its business without regard to chapter 30A;

198 (2) to establish standards requiring that any grant, loan or other appropriation of funds  
199 pursuant to this chapter be subject to an intellectual property agreement between the center and  
200 the recipient person.

201 (3) to adopt an official seal and a functional name;

202 (4) to maintain offices at places within the commonwealth as it may determine and to  
203 conduct meetings of the center in accordance with the by-laws of the authority and the second  
204 paragraph of section 59 of chapter 156B;

205 (5) to sue and be sued, to prosecute and defend actions relating to its properties and  
206 affairs, and to be liable in tort in the same manner as a private person; provided however, that the  
207 center is not authorized to become a debtor under the United States Bankruptcy Code;

208 (6) to appoint officers and employees and to engage consultants, agents and advisors;

209 (7) to enter into contracts and agreements and execute all instruments necessary or  
210 convenient thereto for accomplishing the purposes of this chapter; such contracts and agreements  
211 may include, without limiting the foregoing, construction agreements, purchase or acquisition  
212 agreements, loan or lease agreements, partnership agreements including limited partnership  
213 agreements, joint ventures, participation agreements, service agreements with robotics  
214 companies, educational or financial institutions or intermediaries, and agreements with 1 or more  
215 persons for the servicing of loans made by the center including the receipt by such servicer of  
216 payments made by a user under a financing document; provided, however, that the center shall  
217 contract with another public authority for the performance by that authority of core  
218 administrative functions, as determined by the secretary of housing and economic development  
219 which may include, but shall not be limited to, human resources, financial management,  
220 information technology, legal, procurement and asset management, to minimize the  
221 administrative costs and expenses of the center. Any such payments shall constitute trust funds to  
222 be held and applied solely as provided in such agreement for the servicing of loans, shall  
223 constitute pledged funds of the center and shall be entitled to the same protection when received  
224 by a person for the servicing of loans, without the need for filing and recording of the servicing  
225 agreement under the provisions of chapter 106 or otherwise except in the records of the center, as  
226 is afforded to funds received by an issuer and pledged to a trustee under section 14 of chapter  
227 40D.

228 (8) to acquire real and personal property, or any interest in real or personal property, by  
229 gift, purchase, transfer, foreclosure, lease or otherwise including rights or easements; to hold,  
230 sell, assign, lease, encumber, mortgage or otherwise dispose of any real or personal property, or  
231 any interest therein, or mortgage any interest owned by it or under its control, custody or in its

232 possession; to release or relinquish any right, title, claim, lien, interest, easement or demand  
233 however acquired, including any equity or right of redemption in property foreclosed by it; to  
234 take assignments of leases and rentals, proceed with foreclosure actions, or take any other actions  
235 necessary or incidental to the performance of its corporate purposes;

236 (9) to invest any funds held in reserves or sinking funds, or the Mass Robotics Investment  
237 Fund, or any funds not required for immediate disbursement, in such investments as may be  
238 provided in any financing document relating to the use of such funds, or, if not so provided, as  
239 the board may determine;

240 (10) to review and recommend changes in laws, rules, programs, and policies of the state  
241 and its agencies and subdivisions to further the enhancement of robotics financing, infrastructure  
242 and development within the commonwealth;

243 (11) to appear in its own behalf before boards, commissions, departments or other  
244 agencies of municipal, state or federal government;

245 (12) to obtain insurance;

246 (13) to apply for and accept subventions, grants, loans, advances and contributions from  
247 any source of money, property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied for its  
248 corporate purposes; provided however, that the center shall not accept funding from any source,  
249 including any federal agency, if the receipt of said funding would limit the center's ability to  
250 promote all forms of robotics research or scientific inquiry;

251 (14) to borrow money in order to implement the purposes of this chapter and, without  
252 limiting the generality of the foregoing, to augment the means of securing financing authorized  
253 by law for or otherwise available to public bodies and other users;

254 (15) to lend money to and to acquire or hold obligations issued by public bodies or other  
255 users at such prices and in such manner as the center shall deem advisable and sell such bonds  
256 acquired or held by it at prices without relation to cost and in such manner as the center shall  
257 deem advisable and to secure its own issues of bonds with such obligations held by it;

258 (16) to act as the central entity and coordinating organization of robotics initiatives on  
259 behalf of the commonwealth and to work in collaboration with governmental entities, bodies,  
260 centers, institutes and facilities and promote all areas of robotics to advance the commonwealth's  
261 interests and investments in robotics;

262 (17) to promulgate a code of ethics to address collaborative state and business research  
263 activities; provided, however, that said code of ethics shall include recommendations, and  
264 proposed legislation if necessary, addressing the issue of exclusive licensing agreements for  
265 intellectual property developed using state funds between state-funded colleges and universities  
266 and private companies and institutions. Said code shall be forwarded to the clerks of the house  
267 and senate who shall forward the same to the joint committee on economic development and  
268 emerging technologies.

269 (18) to enter into agreements with public and private entities that deal primarily with  
270 robotic systems or robotics, in order to distribute and provide leveraging of monies or services  
271 for the purposes of furthering robotics research in the commonwealth, fostering jobs in robotics

272 and promoting overall economic growth within the commonwealth by fostering collaboration  
273 and investments in robotics in the commonwealth;

274 (19) to provide and pay for such advisory services and technical assistance as may be  
275 necessary or desired to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

276 (20) to establish and collect such fees and charges as the center without further  
277 appropriation shall determine to be reasonable; and to receive and apply revenues from fees and  
278 charges to the purposes of the center or allotment by the commonwealth or any political  
279 subdivision thereof;

280 (21) to make loans to any person for the acquisition, construction, alteration, or any  
281 combination thereof, or other financing of a project, including but not limited to loans to lending  
282 institutions under terms and conditions requiring the proceeds of such loans to be used by such  
283 lending institutions for the making of loans to users for qualified projects;

284 (22) to disburse, appropriate, grant, loan or allocate funds for the purposes of investing in  
285 robotic systems and robotics;

286 (23) to provide assistance to local entities, local authorities, public bodies and private  
287 corporations for the purposes of maximizing opportunities for the expansion of robotics in the  
288 commonwealth and attracting new robotics entities and investments to the commonwealth,  
289 fostering new innovative research applications to the commonwealth and creating new  
290 manufacturing and development initiatives in the commonwealth;

291 (24) to prepare, publish and distribute, with or without charge, as the center may  
292 determine, such studies, reports and bulletins and other material as the center deems appropriate;

293 (25) to exercise any other powers of a corporation organized under chapter 156B; and

294 (26) to engage accountants, architects, attorneys, engineers, planners, real estate experts  
295 and other consultants as may be necessary in its judgment to carry out the purposes of this act  
296 and fix their compensation;

297 (27) to take any actions necessary or convenient to the exercise of any power or the  
298 discharge of any duty provided for by this act;

299 (28) enter into agreements or other transactions with any person, including without  
300 limitation any public entity or other governmental instrumentality or agency in connection with  
301 its powers and duties under this chapter;

302 (29) to institute and administer the Massachusetts Robotics Investment Fund, established  
303 pursuant to section 4 for the purposes of making appropriations, allocations, grants or loans to  
304 leverage development and investments in robotic systems and robotics, facilities of higher  
305 education whose work and mission applies directly to the aforementioned industries. The center  
306 shall implement an application and grant process for these purposes.

307 (30) to operate as a licensed small business investment corporation pursuant to the  
308 provisions of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, 15 U.S.C. section 661 et seq. as  
309 amended; provided, however, that as an alternative, the board may establish a subsidiary  
310 corporation to operate as a licensed small business investment corporation pursuant to said Small  
311 Business Investment Act of 1958, 15 U.S.C. section 661 et seq., and to make investments in  
312 qualified securities of enterprises through such subsidiary;



313 (31) to track and report to the general court on federal initiatives that have an impact on  
314 robotics companies doing business in the commonwealth; and

315 (32) to create award programs to acknowledge successful companies, public and private  
316 institutions and programs in industry specific areas, as determined by the center.

317 Section 4. (a) There shall be established a commonwealth robotics investment program  
318 which shall be administered by the center. The purpose of the program shall be to expand  
319 robotics-related employment opportunities in the commonwealth and to promote robotics-related  
320 innovations by supporting and stimulating research and development, manufacturing and  
321 commercialization in robotics. Robotics companies certified pursuant to subsection (b) shall be  
322 eligible for participation in the program.

323 (b) The center may, upon a majority vote of the board, certify a robotics company as a  
324 certified robotics company upon:

325 (i) the timely receipt, as determined by the center, of a certification proposal supported by  
326 independently verifiable information, signed under the pains and penalties of perjury by a person  
327 expressly authorized to contract on behalf of the robotics company and which shall include, but  
328 not be limited to: (A) an estimate of the projected new state revenue the robotics company  
329 expects to generate during the period for which the company seeks certification, together with a  
330 plan, including precise goals and objectives, by which the robotics company proposes to achieve  
331 the projected new state revenue, including for each tax year, an estimate of new commercial  
332 revenue that the commonwealth would not otherwise have received, an estimate of the number of  
333 permanent full-time employees to be hired or retained, an estimate of the year in which the  
334 company expects to hire or retain the employees, an estimate of the projected average salaries of

335 said employees, an estimate of the projected taxable income pursuant to chapter 62 or 63  
336 generated by said employees and an estimate of the methods by which the company shall obtain  
337 new employees and pursue a diverse workforce; (B) documentation of an agreement, if any,  
338 between the robotics company and banking institutions with which the robotic company shall  
339 have agreed to establish accounts and by which the banking institutions shall have agreed to  
340 commit a specified percentage of the funds deposited in the accounts for loans made thereby to  
341 companies under the small business capital access program established pursuant to section 58 of  
342 chapter 23A; and (C) if appropriate, documentation that the robotics company has received  
343 approval for a certified project, pursuant to section 3F of chapter 23A; and

344 (ii) findings made by the center, based on the certification proposal, documents submitted  
345 therewith and any additional investigation by the center, and incorporated in its approval, that the  
346 robotics company shall meet: (A) all statutory requirements and any other criteria that the center  
347 may prescribe including, but not limited to criteria in the following areas: whether the robotics  
348 company has sufficient business contacts with the commonwealth as evidenced by its business  
349 activity within the commonwealth including, but not limited to, the number of full-time  
350 employees employed in the commonwealth; the robotics company's potential to further  
351 technological advancements in robotics; the robotics company's potential for leveraging  
352 additional funding or attracting additional resources to the commonwealth; the robotics  
353 company's potential to promote robotics manufacturing in the commonwealth; and evidence of  
354 potential royalty income and contractual means to recapture such income for the purposes of this  
355 chapter, as the center considers appropriate; and (B) the new state revenue and employment  
356 growth projections, as specified in the certification proposal, over the period for which it receives  
357 benefits.

358 (c) A certified robotics company may, upon a majority vote of the board, be eligible for  
359 the following benefits which shall be awarded by the board on a competitive basis: (1) benefits  
360 from the robotics tax incentive program established by subsection (d); (2) grants, loans or other  
361 investments from the Massachusetts Robotics Investment Fund established by section 5; (3)  
362 assistance from the regional technology and innovation centers established by section 8; (4)  
363 assistance from the center to obtain designation as a certified project in an economic opportunity  
364 area pursuant to section 3F of chapter 23A; (5) assistance from the center in accessing economic  
365 incentive programs within the Massachusetts office of business development, including access to  
366 the technical, human, financial, training, educational and site-finding resources necessary to  
367 expand or locate in the commonwealth; (6) assistance from the center in obtaining federal grants;  
368 (7) assistance from the center in facilitating clinical trials; (8) preference for funding for robotic  
369 job training programs; or (9) preference for pre-permitted industrial land as identified by the  
370 Massachusetts Development Finance Agency.

371 (d) There shall be established a robotics tax incentive program. The center, in  
372 consultation with the department, may annually authorize incentives, including incentives carried  
373 forward or refunded pursuant to paragraph 18 of section 30 of chapter 63, clause 10 of  
374 subsection (f) of section 38 of said chapter 63, subsection (l) of section 38M of said chapter 63,  
375 section 38GG of said chapter 63, section 38HH of said chapter 63, section 38II of said chapter  
376 63, , the third paragraph of subsection (c) of section 42B of said chapter 63 and subsection (yy)  
377 of section 6 of chapter 64H in a cumulative amount, including the current year cost of incentives  
378 allowed in previous years, that shall not exceed \$25,000,000 annually. The center may, in  
379 consultation with the department, limit any incentive to a specific dollar amount or time duration  
380 or in any other manner deemed appropriate by the department; provided, however, that the

381 department shall only allocate any such incentives among commonwealth certified robotics  
382 companies pursuant to subsection (b) and shall award such tax incentives pursuant to subsection  
383 (c).

384 The center shall provide an estimate to the secretary of administration and finance of the  
385 tax cost of extending benefits to a proposed project before certification, as approved by the  
386 commissioner of revenue, based on reasonable projections of project activities and costs. Tax  
387 incentives shall not be available to a certified robotics company unless expressly granted by the  
388 secretary of administration and finance in writing.

389 (e)(1) Certification granted pursuant to subsection (b) shall be valid for 5 years starting  
390 with the tax year in which certification is granted. Each certified robotics company shall file an  
391 annual report with the center detailing whether it has met the specific targets established in the  
392 proposal pursuant to subclause (A) of clause (i) of subsection (b).

393 (2) The certification of a robotics company may be revoked by the center after an  
394 independent investigation and determination that representations made by the certified robotics  
395 company in its certification proposal are materially at variance with the conduct of the robotics  
396 company after receiving certification; provided, however, that the center shall review the  
397 certified robotics company at least annually; provided, further, that a project with an actual return  
398 on investment that is less than 70 per cent of the return on investment projected in the  
399 certification proposal shall be deemed to contain a material variance for a revocation  
400 determination. If the center determines not to revoke certification upon a finding that the actual  
401 return on investment for the project is less than 70 per cent, the center shall provide its reasons  
402 for the decision in writing to the secretary of administration and finance, the commissioner of

403 revenue and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, who shall forward the same  
404 to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on revenue and the  
405 joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies. The center shall post  
406 these reasons on the internet for public access.

407 (3) Under this subsection, revocation shall take effect on the first day of the tax year in  
408 which the center determines that a material variance commenced. The commissioner of revenue  
409 shall, as of the effective date of the revocation, disallow any credits, exemptions or other tax  
410 benefits allowed by the original certification of tax benefits under this section. The department  
411 shall issue regulations to recapture the value of any credits, exemptions or other tax benefits  
412 allowed by the certification under this section; provided, however, that the recapture provisions  
413 in section 38GG of chapter 63 shall apply. If the original certification allowed sales and use tax  
414 exemptions pursuant to subsection (yy) of section 6 of chapter 64H, the purchaser shall accrue  
415 use tax as of the date of revocation on a portion of the sales price on which exemption was  
416 claimed that is proportionate to the remaining useful life of the property.

417 (4) Nothing in this subsection shall limit any legal remedies available to the  
418 commonwealth against any certified robotics company.

419 (f) Capital funding may be revoked only by the center after an independent investigation  
420 and determination that representations made by the robotics company in its certification proposal  
421 are materially at variance with the conduct of the robotics company after certification; provided,  
422 further, that a robotics company generating less than 70 per cent of the projected new state  
423 revenue in the certification proposal shall be deemed to contain a material variance for the  
424 purposes of a revocation determination. If the center does not revoke certification despite said

425 material variance, the center shall provide its reasons for the decision in writing to the secretary  
426 of administration and finance, the commissioner of revenue and the clerks of the house of  
427 representatives and the senate, who shall forward the same to the house and senate committees  
428 on ways and means, the joint committee on bonding, capital expenditures and state assets and the  
429 joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies. A notice of revocation  
430 under this subsection shall specify the date on which the revocation is effective, which shall be  
431 the date of the notice or the date on which the center determined that the material variance  
432 commenced. The secretary of administration and finance shall, as of the effective date of the  
433 revocation, disallow any loans, grants or other benefits allowed by the original certification  
434 under this section. The department may issue regulations to recapture any grants or loans  
435 allowed by the certification under this section.

436 (g) The center shall revoke the certification of a robotics company when independent  
437 investigations conducted in 2 consecutive years determine that representations made by the  
438 robotics company in its project proposal are deemed materially at variance, pursuant to  
439 paragraph (2) of subsection (e) or subsection (f).

440 (h) The board, in consultation with the executive office of administration and finance and  
441 the executive office of housing and economic development, shall promulgate rules, regulations  
442 or guidelines necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

443 Section 5. (a) There shall be established and placed within the center a fund to be known  
444 as the Massachusetts Robotics Investment Fund, hereinafter in this section referred to as the  
445 fund, to be held by the center separate and apart from its other funds, to finance the activities of  
446 the center. The fund shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies

447 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited thereto, such additional  
448 funds as are subject to the direction and control of the center, any pension funds, federal grants  
449 or loans, royalties or private investment capital which may properly be applied in furtherance of  
450 the objectives of the fund, any proceeds from the sale of qualified investments secured or held by  
451 the fund, any fees and charges imposed relative to the making of qualified investments as defined  
452 by the center, secured or held by the fund and any other monies which may be available to the  
453 center for the purposes of the fund from any other source or sources. Any revenues, deposits,  
454 receipts, or funds received through the receipt of royalties, interest, dividends, or the sale of  
455 equity instruments shall be deposited in the fund, and shall be available to the center for the  
456 purposes described in this section, without further appropriation. All available moneys in the  
457 fund that are unexpended at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and  
458 shall be available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year.

459 (b) The center shall invest and reinvest the fund and the income thereof only as follows:

460 (1) making qualified investments pursuant to subsection (c); (2) defraying the ordinary and  
461 necessary expenses of administration and operation associated with the center; provided,  
462 however, that said administrative and operational expenses shall not exceed 15 per cent of the  
463 maximum amount authorized to be expended from the fund in a fiscal year; (3) investing any  
464 funds not required for immediate disbursement in the purchase of such securities as may be  
465 lawful investments for fiduciaries in the commonwealth; (4) paying binding obligations  
466 associated with such qualified investments which shall be secured by the fund as the same  
467 become payable; and (5) paying principal or interest on qualified investments secured by the  
468 fund or paying any redemption premium required to be paid when such qualified investments  
469 shall be redeemed prior to maturity; provided, however, that monies in the fund shall not be

470 withdrawn at any time in such an amount as would reduce the amount of the fund to less than the  
471 minimum requirement thereof established by the board, except for the purpose of paying binding  
472 obligations associated with qualified investments which shall be secured by the fund as the same  
473 become payable.

474 (c) The fund shall be held and applied by the center, subject to the approval of the board,  
475 to make qualified investments, grants, research and other funding and loans designed to advance  
476 the following public purposes for robotics in the commonwealth: (1) to stimulate increased  
477 financing for the expansion of research and development by leveraging private financing for  
478 highly productive state-of-the-art research and development facilities, equipment and  
479 instrumentation and by providing financing related thereto including, but not limited to,  
480 financing for the construction or expansion of such new facilities; (2) to make targeted  
481 investments, including research funding, proof of concept funding and funding for the  
482 development of devices and to promote manufacturing activities for new or existing advanced  
483 technologies and robotics research; (3) to make matching grants to colleges, universities,  
484 independent research institutions, nonprofit entities, public instrumentalities, companies and  
485 other entities in connection with support from the federal government, industry and other grant-  
486 funding sources related to the expansion of research and development and to increase and  
487 strengthen economic development, employment opportunities and commercial and industrial  
488 sectors in the field of robotics; (4) to provide bridge financing to colleges, universities,  
489 independent research institutions, nonprofit entities, public instrumentalities, companies and  
490 other entities for the receipt of grants as described in clause (3) awarded or to be awarded by the  
491 federal government, industry or other sources; (5) to provide fellowships, co-ops, internships,  
492 loans and grants; (6) to provide workforce training grants to prepare individuals for robotics



493 careers; (7) to provide funding for development, coordination and marketing of higher education  
494 programs; (8) to make qualified grants to certified robotics companies for site remediation,  
495 preparation and ancillary infrastructure improvement projects; and (9) to otherwise further the  
496 public purposes set forth herein.

497 (d) Proceeds of the fund may be used by the center to fund robotics initiatives including:

498 (1) the Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center, established by section 45 of chapter 75 to  
499 fund activities that facilitate the transfer of technology from the commonwealth's research  
500 institutions to the commonwealth's robotic industries, for productive use by such industries and  
501 to make targeted investments in proof of concept funding for emerging technologies; or (2) the  
502 Massachusetts Science, Technology Engineering, and Mathematics Grant Fund, established by  
503 section 2MMM of chapter 29.

504 (e) The center shall make no such qualified investment pursuant to clause (1) of  
505 subsection (b) unless: (1) said investment has been approved by a majority vote of the board; (2)  
506 the recipient is a certified robotics company pursuant to section 4 or a project or initiative listed  
507 in subsection (d); (3) the center finds, to the extent possible, that a definite benefit to the  
508 commonwealth's economy may reasonably be expected from said qualified investment;  
509 provided, further, that in evaluating a request or application for funding, the center shall consider  
510 the following: (i) the appropriateness of the project; (ii) whether the project has significant  
511 potential to expand employment; (iii) the project's potential to enhance technological  
512 advancements; (iv) the project's potential for leveraging additional funding or attracting  
513 resources to the commonwealth; (v) the project's potential to promote manufacturing in the  
514 commonwealth; and (vi) evidence of potential royalty income and contractual means to recapture  
515 such income for the purposes of this chapter, as the center considers appropriate; (4) to the extent

516 said investment is a capital investment made pursuant to clause (8) of subsection (c), the  
517 investment has been approved by the secretary of the executive office of administration and  
518 finance upon request of the center; provided, however, that said request shall be submitted to the  
519 secretary in writing and shall, include but not be limited to: (i) a description of the project or  
520 program to be funded; (ii) the economic benefits to the commonwealth which can reasonably be  
521 expected from said project or program; (iii) a copy of the proposed contract or other document  
522 executing the transaction between the center and the recipient of the funds; (iv) a description of  
523 the contractual or other legal remedies available to the center upon non-performance of the  
524 contract or other document executing the transaction by the recipient including, but not limited  
525 to, any provisions for restitution or reimbursement of the funds granted, loaned or otherwise  
526 invested in or with the recipient; and (v) any other information as the secretary may determine;  
527 and (5) said qualified investment conforms with qualified investment rules to be approved by the  
528 board.

529         The qualified investment rules shall set the terms and conditions for investments which  
530 shall constitute qualified investments including, but not limited to, loans, guarantees, loan  
531 insurance or reinsurance, equity investments, grants awarded pursuant to clause (3) of subsection  
532 (c), other financing or credit enhancing devices, as established by the center directly or on its  
533 own behalf or in conjunction with other public instrumentalities, or private institutions or the  
534 federal government.

535         The qualified investment rules shall establish the terms, procedures, standards and  
536 conditions which the center shall employ to identify qualified applications, process applications,  
537 make investment determinations, safeguard the fund, advance the objective of increasing  
538 employment opportunities, oversee the progress of qualified investments and secure the

539 participation of other public instrumentalities, private institutions or the federal government in  
540 such qualified investments. The qualified investment rules shall provide for negotiated  
541 intellectual property agreements between the center and a qualified investment recipient which  
542 shall include the terms and conditions by which the fund's support may be reduced or withdrawn.

543 (f) The center may solicit investments by private institutions or investors in the activities  
544 of the fund and may reach agreements with such private institutions or investors regarding the  
545 terms of any such investments including, but not limited to, the rights of such investors to  
546 participate in the income or appropriation of the fund. To further the objective of securing  
547 investments by private institutions or investors in the activities of the fund pursuant to the  
548 preceding sentence, the center may develop a proposal creating a separate investment entity  
549 which shall permit the commingling of the fund's resources with the maximum participation by  
550 such private institutions or investors in a manner consistent with the public purpose of the fund  
551 and under the terms and conditions established to protect and preserve the assets of the fund.

552 (g) Copies of the approved qualified investment rules, and any modifications, shall be  
553 submitted to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, who shall forward the  
554 same to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on  
555 economic development and emerging technologies.

556 (h) Qualified investment transactions made by the center pursuant to this section shall  
557 not, except as specified in this chapter, be subject to chapter 175, or any successor thereto, and  
558 shall be payable solely from the Massachusetts Robotics Investment Fund established by this  
559 section and shall not constitute a debt or pledge of the full faith and credit of the commonwealth,  
560 the center or any subdivision of the commonwealth.

561 (i) The center shall not make expenditure from or commitment of the assets of the fund  
562 including, but not limited to, the making of qualified investments secured by the fund, if  
563 following the making of said qualified investment, the amount of the fund shall be less than the  
564 minimum requirement established by the board.

565 Section 6. (a) There shall be established and placed within the center the Massachusetts  
566 Small Business Matching Grant Fund, hereinafter referred to in this section as the fund, to be  
567 held by the center separate and apart from its other funds. The fund shall be credited any  
568 appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically  
569 designated to be credited thereto, such additional funds as are subject to the direction and control  
570 of the center, any pension funds, federal grants or loans, royalties or private investment capital  
571 which may properly be applied in furtherance of the objectives of the fund, any proceeds from  
572 the sale of qualified investments secured or held by the fund, any fees and charges imposed  
573 relative to the making of qualified investments as defined by the center, secured or held by the  
574 fund and any other monies which may be available to the center for the purposes of the fund  
575 from any other source or sources. Any revenues, deposits, receipts, or funds received through the  
576 receipt of royalties, interest, dividends, or the sale of equity instruments shall be deposited in the  
577 fund, and shall be available to the center for the purposes described in this section, without  
578 further appropriation. All available moneys in the fund that are unexpended at the end of each  
579 fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure in the  
580 subsequent fiscal year.

581 (b) The center shall invest and reinvest the fund and the income thereof only as follows:  
582 (1) making qualified grants pursuant to subsection (c); (2) investing any funds not required for  
583 immediate disbursement in the purchase of such securities as may be lawful investments for

584 fiduciaries in the commonwealth; (3) paying binding obligations associated with such qualified  
585 investments which shall be secured by the fund as the same become payable; and (4) paying  
586 principal or interest on qualified investments secured by the fund or paying any redemption  
587 premium required to be paid when such qualified investments shall be redeemed prior to  
588 maturity; provided, however, that monies in the fund shall not be withdrawn at any time in such  
589 an amount as would reduce the amount of the fund to less than the minimum requirement thereof  
590 established by the center, except for the purpose of paying binding obligations associated with  
591 qualified investments which shall be secured by the fund as the same become payable.

592 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a company need not be  
593 a certified robotics company, as established in section 4, to be eligible for matching grants  
594 pursuant to this section. The fund shall be held and applied by the center to make qualified loans,  
595 grants or other investments to stimulate increased financing for robotics and high technology  
596 research and development, manufacturing and commercialization in the commonwealth by  
597 matching grants to public agencies, independent research institutions, nonprofits or to robotics or  
598 high technology companies to increase and strengthen the commonwealth's economic  
599 development, employment opportunities and commercial and industrial sectors. The fund shall  
600 provide matching grants to commonwealth-based robotics or high technology companies that  
601 receive small business innovation research or small business technology transfer grants from the  
602 Small Business Administration, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. section 638, to assist companies that have  
603 developed new commercialization-ready technologies to reach production and create  
604 manufacturing jobs in the commonwealth. Said matching grants shall be used to create  
605 manufacturing jobs and may be used for, without limitation, the creation of, and capital  
606 improvements for, production facilities, workforce training, product marketing and purchasing

607 infrastructure for product manufacturing. Said matching grants shall be distributed to eligible  
608 companies that have commercialization-ready technologies developed with assistance from the  
609 Small Business Administration in the form of \$1 in matching funds for every \$1 granted from the  
610 SBIR program and phase III grants established by 15 U.S.C. section 638. Said matching grants  
611 shall be awarded in consultation with the Smaller Business Association of New England. No  
612 such grant to any company shall exceed \$500,000 annually and the center shall make no such  
613 qualified loan, grant or other investment unless: (1) said loan, grant or investment has been  
614 approved by a majority vote of the board; (2) the center finds that, to the extent possible, a  
615 definite benefit to the commonwealth's economy may reasonably be expected from said qualified  
616 loan, grant or investment; provided, however, that in evaluating a request or application for  
617 funding, the center shall consider whether: (i) the loan, grant or investment shall stimulate  
618 increased financing for robotics and high technology research and development, manufacturing  
619 and commercialization; (ii) the enterprise has a reasonable chance of success; (iii) center  
620 participation is necessary; (iv) the enterprise has the reasonable potential to create a substantial  
621 amount of new employment in the commonwealth; (v) the principals of the enterprise have made  
622 or are prepared to make a substantial financial and time commitment to the enterprise; (vi)  
623 binding commitments have been made to the center by the enterprise for adequate reporting of  
624 financial data to the center, which shall include a requirement for an annual or other periodic  
625 audit of the books of the enterprise, and for such control on the part of the center as the board  
626 shall consider prudent over the management of the company to protect the investment of the  
627 center including the board's right to access, without limitation, financial and other records of the  
628 enterprise; and (vii) a reasonable effort has been made to find a professional investor to invest in

629 the enterprise and whether such effort was unsuccessful; and (3) said loan, grant or other  
630 investment conforms with small business investment rules to be approved by the board.

631         The small business investment rules shall define robotics technology and high technology  
632 for purposes hereof; provided, however, that such definition shall include companies engaging in  
633 research and development, commercialization or manufacturing in the commonwealth. The small  
634 business investment rules shall establish the terms and conditions for investments which  
635 constitute qualified investments, and may include, but not be limited to, loans, guarantees, loan  
636 insurance or reinsurance, equity investments or other financing or credit enhancing devices, as  
637 made by the center directly or on its own behalf or in conjunction with other public  
638 instrumentalities, private institutions or the federal government. The small business investment  
639 rules shall establish the terms, procedures, standards and conditions which the center shall  
640 employ to identify qualified applications, process applications, make investment determinations,  
641 safeguard the fund, advance the objective of increasing employment opportunities for the  
642 citizens of the commonwealth, oversee the progress of qualified investments and secure the  
643 participation of other public instrumentalities, private institutions or the federal government in  
644 such qualified investments. The small business investment rules shall provide that each recipient  
645 of a qualified investment shall be required to pay a fee as a condition of such receipt, and said fee  
646 may take the form of points, an interest rate premium or a contribution of warrants or other forms  
647 of equity or consideration to the fund. The small business investment rules shall provide for  
648 negotiated agreements between the center and each recipient of a qualified investment regarding  
649 the terms and conditions by which the fund's support thereof could be reduced or withdrawn.

650         (d) The center may solicit investments by private institutions or investors in the activities  
651 of the fund and may reach agreements with such private institutions or investors regarding the

652 terms of any such investments including, but not limited to, the rights of such investors to  
653 participate in the income or appropriation of the fund. To further the objective of securing  
654 investments by private institutions or investors in the activities of the fund pursuant to the  
655 preceding sentence, the center may develop a proposal relative to the creation of a separate  
656 investment entity which shall permit the commingling of the fund's resources with the maximum  
657 participation by such private institutions or investors consistent with the public purpose of the  
658 fund and under the terms and conditions established to protect and preserve the assets of the  
659 fund; provided, however, that if the creation or operation of such a separate entity would require  
660 legislation, said proposal shall include proposed statutory language with regard thereto.

661 (e) Copies of the approved small business investment rules, and any modifications  
662 thereto, shall be submitted to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, who shall  
663 forward the same to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint  
664 committee on economic development and emerging technologies.

665 (f) Qualified investment transactions made by the center pursuant to the provisions of this  
666 section shall not, except as specified in this chapter, be subject to the provisions of chapter 175,  
667 or any successor thereto, and shall be payable solely from the Massachusetts Small Business  
668 Matching Grant Fund, established by this section and shall not constitute a debt or pledge of the  
669 full faith and credit of the commonwealth, the center or any subdivision of the commonwealth.

670 (g) The center shall not make expenditure from or commitment of the assets of the fund  
671 including, but not limited to, the making of qualified investments secured by the fund, if  
672 following the making of said qualified investment, the amount of the fund shall be less than the  
673 minimum requirement established by the board.



674 (h) The center shall develop a plan ensuring that fund disbursements made pursuant to  
675 this section shall be distributed throughout all regions of the commonwealth.

676 Section 7. (a) There shall be established and placed within the center a fund to be known  
677 as the Massachusetts Robotics Education Fund, hereinafter in this section referred to as the fund,  
678 to be held by the center separate and apart from its other funds. The fund shall be credited any  
679 appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically  
680 designated to be credited thereto, such additional funds as are subject to the direction and control  
681 of the center, any pension funds, federal grants or loans, royalties or private investment capital  
682 which may properly be applied in furtherance of the objectives of the fund, any proceeds from  
683 the sale of qualified investments secured or held by the fund, any fees and charges imposed  
684 relative to the making of qualified investments as defined by the center, secured or held by the  
685 fund and any other monies which may be available to the center for the purposes of the fund  
686 from any other source or sources. Any revenues, deposits, receipts, or funds received through the  
687 receipt of royalties, interest, dividends, or the sale of equity instruments shall be deposited in the  
688 fund, and shall be available to the center for the purposes described in this section, without  
689 further appropriation. All available moneys in the fund that are unexpended at the end of each  
690 fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure in the  
691 subsequent fiscal year.

692 (b) The center shall invest and reinvest the fund and the income thereof only as follows:

693 (1) making qualified grants pursuant to subsection (c); (2) investing any funds not required for  
694 immediate disbursement in the purchase of such securities as may be lawful investments for  
695 fiduciaries in the commonwealth; (3) paying binding obligations associated with such qualified  
696 investments which shall be secured by the fund as the same become payable; and (4) paying

697 principal or interest on qualified investments secured by the fund or paying any redemption  
698 premium required to be paid when such qualified investments shall be redeemed prior to  
699 maturity; provided, however, that monies in the fund shall not be withdrawn at any time in such  
700 an amount as would reduce the amount of the fund to less than the minimum requirement thereof  
701 established by the center, except for the purpose of paying binding obligations associated with  
702 qualified investments which are secured by the fund as the same become payable.

703 (c) The fund shall be held and applied by the center to make qualified grants to vocational  
704 technical schools for purchasing or leasing necessary equipment to train students in robotics  
705 technology and research; provided, however, that the center shall make no such qualified grants  
706 unless: (1) said grant has been approved by a majority vote of the board; (2) the grant recipient  
707 shall be a vocational technical school; provided, however, that if funds remain after  
708 consideration of grant applications submitted by vocational technical schools, the center may  
709 make qualified grants to community colleges established by chapter 15A or any other general or  
710 special law; (3) the grant recipient has identified and properly trained instructors to use the  
711 equipment to be purchased or leased; and (4) said qualified grants conform with education  
712 investment rules approved by the board.

713 The education investment rules shall set the terms and conditions for grants which  
714 constitute qualified grants and shall set forth the terms, procedures, standards and conditions  
715 which the center shall employ to identify qualified applications, process applications, make  
716 investment determinations, safeguard the fund, advance the objective of increasing employment  
717 opportunities for the citizens of the commonwealth, oversee the progress of qualified grants, and  
718 secure the participation of other public instrumentalities, private institutions or the federal  
719 government in such qualified grants.

720 (d) The center may solicit investments by private institutions or investors in the activities  
721 of the fund and may reach agreements with such private institutions or investors regarding the  
722 terms of any such investments including, but not limited to, the rights of such investors to  
723 participate in the income or appropriation of the fund. To further the objective of securing  
724 investments by private institutions or investors in the activities of the fund as established in the  
725 preceding sentence, the center may develop a proposal relative to the creation of a separate  
726 investment entity which shall permit the commingling of the fund's resources with the maximum  
727 participation by such private institutions or investors in a manner consistent with the public  
728 purpose of the fund and under terms and conditions established to protect and preserve the assets  
729 of the fund.

730 (e) Copies of the approved education investment rules, and any modifications thereto,  
731 shall be submitted to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and shall forward  
732 the same to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on  
733 economic development and emerging technologies.

734 (f) Qualified grants and investment transactions made by the center pursuant to the  
735 provisions of this section shall not, except as specified in this chapter, be subject to the  
736 provisions of chapter 175, or any successor thereto, and shall be payable solely from the  
737 Massachusetts Robotics Education Fund, established by this section and shall not constitute a  
738 debt or pledge of the full faith and credit of the commonwealth, the center or any subdivision of  
739 the commonwealth.

740 (g) The center shall not make expenditure from or commitment of the assets of the fund  
741 including, but not limited to, the making of qualified investments secured by the fund, if

742 following the making of said qualified investment, the amount of the fund shall be less than the  
743 minimum requirement established by the board.

744 Section 8. (a) The center, in consultation with the advisory board established by section  
745 9, shall identify 1 existing robotics entity with experience facilitating local or regional robotic  
746 industry sectors to serve as a regional technology and innovation center in each of the following  
747 5 regions: western Massachusetts, central Massachusetts, northeastern Massachusetts,  
748 southeastern Massachusetts and metropolitan Boston.

749 (b) The purpose of each regional technology and innovation center shall include, but shall  
750 not be limited to: (i) encouraging and facilitating collaboration between existing organizations  
751 dedicated to promoting the regional robotic industry; (ii) inputting regional robotic industry and  
752 educational data, including the documentation of regional lab space, into the robotics industry  
753 database as designed and maintained by the center; (iii) organizing, facilitating and  
754 implementing regional workforce development initiatives; (iv) providing business management  
755 and resource training, including the dissemination of best business practices; (v) facilitating  
756 public and private investment; (vi) reviewing and providing recommendations to the center  
757 proposals; (vii) identifying property conducive to regional robotic industry expansion; and (viii)  
758 investigating and identifying specific regions or municipalities that have the potential to be  
759 developed into a robotics cluster.

760 (c) The executive director, or the equivalent, of the 5 regional technology and innovation  
761 centers shall meet from time to time with the center to exchange information; identify regional  
762 needs including, but not limited to, any assistance needed in fulfilling the regional centers'

763 purposes as provided in subsection (b); and advise the center on the effectiveness of programs  
764 administered by the center.

765 (d) Each regional technology and innovation center shall provide an annual report to the  
766 center containing such information as may be required by the center to evaluate the progress of  
767 each regional center. The center may withdraw a designation as a regional technology and  
768 innovation center if a regional center does not satisfactorily meet the purposes of subsection (b),  
769 and as provided in any rules, regulations or guidelines established by the center.

770 Section 9. There shall be an 15-member advisory board advise the center. The governor  
771 shall make all appointments to the board; provided, however there shall be: 8 representatives of  
772 Massachusetts Technology Collaborative; 1 representative from the University of Massachusetts  
773 at Amherst; 1 representative from the University of Massachusetts at Boston; 1 representative  
774 from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth; 1 representative from the University of  
775 Massachusetts at Lowell; and 1 representative from the University of Massachusetts at  
776 Worcester. The secretary of labor and workforce development or the secretary's designee, the  
777 executive director of the Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center and the 5 executive  
778 directors of the regional technology and innovation centers, established pursuant to section 8,  
779 shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the advisory board.

780 Each member shall serve for a term of 3 years, except that in making initial  
781 appointments, the governor shall appoint 5 members to serve for a term of 1 year, 5 members to  
782 serve for a term of 2 years and 5 members to serve for a term of 3 years. Any person appointed to  
783 fill a vacancy in the office of a member of the advisory board shall be appointed in a like manner  
784 and shall serve for only the unexpired term of the member who vacated. Members shall be

785 eligible for reappointment. Any member may be removed by the governor for cause. The  
786 advisory board shall meet at least bi-annually, but shall meet as often as the members shall  
787 determine, or at such other intervals as established by the center's president to review  
788 recommendations made by the board. The members of the advisory board shall serve without  
789 compensation, but each member shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary  
790 expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.

791           The duties of the advisory board shall be to advise the center and the board concerning:  
792 research and development in the robotics; development of products and the effectiveness of  
793 public and private initiatives to further product development; manufacturing and  
794 commercialization of robotic systems and robotics; identifying candidates and providing  
795 recommendations for the 5 regional technology and innovation centers as established in section  
796 8; and any other area as requested by the board.

797           The advisory board shall not be a state agency for the purposes of chapter 268A and shall  
798 not be subject to sections 20 and 21 of chapter 30A or chapter 66.

799           Section 10. The center shall develop a comprehensive, internet-based robotics sector  
800 database for the organization of all relevant information, as determined by the center, related to  
801 the robotics sector in the commonwealth. Access to said database shall be limited at the  
802 discretion of the center's president. Any documentary materials or data received by the center  
803 from any entity, private or public, for the express purpose of adding information to the robotic  
804 database shall be exempt from section 10 of chapter 66 and the board may hold any discussion or  
805 consideration of database materials in executive session closed to the public, notwithstanding the  
806 provisions of section 20 and 21 of chapter 30A, but the purpose of any such executive session

807 shall be set forth in the official minutes of the center and business not directly related to such  
808 purpose shall not be transacted nor shall any vote be taken during such executive session.

809           Section 11. (a) The exercise of the powers granted by this chapter shall be for the benefit  
810 of the people of the commonwealth; and as the operation of the center shall constitute the  
811 performance of essential governmental functions, the center shall not be required to pay any  
812 taxes or assessments, except as otherwise provided by this chapter, and the notes or bonds issued  
813 pursuant to this chapter, their transfer and the income therefrom, including any profit made on  
814 the sale thereof, at all times shall be free from taxation by and within the commonwealth.

815           (b) The lands and tangible personal property of the center shall be deemed to be public  
816 property used for essential public and governmental purposes and shall be exempt from taxation  
817 and from betterments and special assessments.

818           Section 12. The center shall annually complete a detailed report setting forth: its  
819 operations and accomplishments; its receipts and expenditures during such fiscal year; its assets  
820 and liabilities at the end of its fiscal year; the anticipated return on investment to the  
821 commonwealth from the investment of funds administered by the center during such fiscal year;  
822 a complete report detailing all companies classified as a certified robotics company; a complete  
823 list of grants awarded by the center; a list of other funding activities; reports of patents or  
824 products resulting from funded activities; the status of construction of any real estate project  
825 resulting from certification, including whether construction is on-time and on-budget; and a  
826 tracking of job creation as a result of funded projects. The center shall annually submit the report  
827 to the governor, the secretary of administration and finance, the state comptroller and the clerks  
828 of the house of representatives and senate, who shall forward the same to the house and senate

829 committees on ways and means and the joint committee on economic development and emerging  
830 technologies on or before October 1. The report shall be posted on the internet in a manner  
831 accessible to the public.

832           Section 13. The books and records of the center shall be subject to a biennial audit by the  
833 auditor of the commonwealth.

834           Section 14. (1) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 32, or of any general or  
835 special law to the contrary, the center shall establish 1 or more optional retirement programs that  
836 qualify pursuant to section 401, 408 or 457 of the Internal Revenue Code, as may be amended  
837 from time to time, or contracts providing retirement and death benefits may be purchased by  
838 employees of the center who elect to participate in the program. The benefits offered to  
839 employees of the center in such optional retirement program shall be provided through such  
840 custodial accounts or individual or group annuity contracts, which may be fixed or variable in  
841 nature, or a combination thereof; provided, however, that at all times, those annuity contracts  
842 issued by licensed insurers under the optional retirement program shall provide the minimum  
843 values and guarantees required by the laws governing such contracts in the commonwealth; and  
844 provided, further, that the benefits shall be payable only to employees of the center in the  
845 program or their beneficiaries, and such benefits shall be paid only by the selected providers in  
846 accordance with the terms of the custodial accounts, annuity contracts or certificates providing  
847 coverage to the employee of the center; and provided, further, that such optional retirement  
848 program shall not allow an employee of the center to withdraw contributions while an active  
849 participant in the center's optional retirement program.



850 (b) The center shall select at least 2 but no more than 4 providers for the optional  
851 retirement program and enter into contracts with them in accordance with the laws governing the  
852 procurement of services for executive agencies of the commonwealth; provided, however, that  
853 the selected providers shall be authorized to conduct business within the commonwealth, and  
854 each and every provider or issuer of annuity contracts under the optional retirement program  
855 which is a life insurance company shall hold a certificate of authority to do life insurance  
856 business in the commonwealth, maintain the minimum required capital and surplus required for  
857 life insurance companies pursuant to the laws of the commonwealth, be a member of the  
858 commonwealth's life and health insurance guaranty association and be a member of the life and  
859 health insurance guaranty associations in any and all jurisdictions where required by law with  
860 similar retirement programs funded in whole or in part through the provider's annuities in which  
861 employees of the center participating in the optional retirement program may participate upon  
862 transfer of employment; and provided, further, that said board shall coordinate the transfer of  
863 funds and information between payroll centers, the selected providers and employees of the  
864 center participating in the plan.

865 (2)(a) Participation in the optional retirement program provided by this section shall be  
866 limited to employees of the center who are otherwise eligible for membership in the state  
867 employees' retirement system as established under the provisions of chapter 32.

868 (b) Elections to participate in the optional retirement program shall be made as follows:

869 (i) Any eligible employee of the center who is initially appointed on or after the effective  
870 date of the optional retirement program may elect in writing to participate in the optional  
871 retirement program within 90 days of the effective date of the appointment.

872 Any such election shall be effective as of the effective date of appointment. If an eligible  
873 employee of the center fails to make an election as provided in this paragraph, such employee  
874 shall become a member of the state employees' retirement system established under the  
875 provisions of said chapter 32.

876 (ii) Any eligible employee of the center who is a member of any retirement system  
877 established by the provisions of said chapter 32 on the effective date of the optional retirement  
878 program but who has less than 10 years of creditable service on the effective date of the optional  
879 retirement program may elect in writing to participate in the optional retirement program within  
880 90 days after the effective date of the optional retirement program. Any such election shall  
881 become effective on the first day of the next pay period following such election, and shall  
882 constitute a waiver of all retirement benefits to which the individual may be entitled as an  
883 employee under any retirement system established under the provisions of said chapter 32.

884 (iii) Any employee of the center who is a member of any retirement system established  
885 by the provisions of said chapter 32 but who has less than 10 years of creditable service on the  
886 date such employee becomes eligible to participate in the optional retirement program may elect  
887 in writing to participate in such optional retirement program within 90 days of the date said  
888 employee becomes eligible. Any such election shall become effective on the first day of the next  
889 pay period following such election, and shall constitute a waiver of all retirement benefits to  
890 which the individual may be entitled as an employee under any retirement system established by  
891 the provisions of said chapter 32.

892 (iv) Any eligible employee of the center electing to participate in the optional retirement  
893 program shall be ineligible for membership in the state employees' retirement system while he

894 remains continuously employed by the center; provided, however, that the election by an eligible  
895 employee to participate in the optional retirement program shall be irrevocable while the  
896 employee continues to meet the eligibility requirements; and provided, further, that if an  
897 employee becomes ineligible to continue in the optional retirement program, the employee shall  
898 thereafter participate in the state employees' retirement system established in accordance with the  
899 provisions of said chapter 32.

900 (3)(a) Any eligible employee of the center electing to participate in the optional  
901 retirement program shall not be required to make contributions to the state employee's retirement  
902 system but shall contribute to the optional retirement program an amount equal to the  
903 contribution which would have been required had such employee been a member of the state  
904 employees' retirement system.

905 (b) For each eligible employee of the center electing to participate in the optional  
906 retirement program, the center shall contribute an amount equal to 5 per cent of each employee's  
907 regular compensation, as defined in section 1 of chapter 32, to the optional retirement program  
908 and a plan established to provide life and disability benefits to all participants in the program;  
909 provided, however, that not more than 1 per cent of said contribution shall be made to the plan  
910 established to provide said life and disability benefits; provided, further, that the balance of said  
911 contribution shall be remitted to the appropriate provider for application to the participating  
912 employee's contract or custodial account, less any monthly fees established by the board in order  
913 to cover the reasonably necessary direct costs incurred by the board in establishing and  
914 administering the plan.

915 (c) If any eligible employee of the center is a member of any retirement system  
916 established by the provisions of said chapter 32 at the time such employee elects to participate in  
917 the optional retirement program, the employee may direct that the amount of the accumulated  
918 total deductions, and any interest to which the employee would be entitled under said chapter 32  
919 if the employee withdrew from the system, credited to such employee's account in such  
920 retirement system be transferred directly to such employee's account in the optional retirement  
921 program. Any such transfer shall be made in the form of a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer in  
922 compliance with the requirements of subchapter D of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code.

923 (d) The funds accumulated under the optional retirement program shall be exempt from  
924 taxation. The rights of a participant to a custodial account, an annuity, the annuity contracts or  
925 certificates providing coverage to participants, and all right in and to the funds accumulated  
926 under the custodial accounts, annuity contracts or certificates shall be exempt from taxation,  
927 including income taxes levied pursuant to the provisions of said chapter 62. No assignment of  
928 any right in or to any funds or annuities under the optional retirement program shall be valid  
929 except such assignment as may be made for the purpose of making restitution in the case of  
930 dereliction from duty by any participant as established in section 15 of said chapter 32 if such  
931 assignment does not violate the restrictions of the Internal Revenue Code; provided, however,  
932 that nothing in this section shall prevent a participant's custodial account or annuity from being  
933 attached, taken on execution, assigned, or subject to other process to satisfy a support order  
934 under chapters 208, 209, or 273 if such order constitutes a qualified domestic relations order  
935 under the terms of the Internal Revenue Code.

936 (e) Any eligible employee of the center enrolled in the optional retirement program who  
937 retires and wishes to retain the employee's group insurance coverage as provided in chapter 32A,

938 or retires and wishes to enroll in group insurance coverage pursuant to said chapter 32A, may do  
939 so in the same manner, and subject to the same limitations and requirements as an active  
940 employee member of the state employees' retirement system. Any eligible employee of the center  
941 enrolled in the optional retirement program who retains or enrolls in the group insurance  
942 coverage upon retirement shall be deemed to have authorized the employee's optional retirement  
943 program plan provider to deduct from the retired employees account, on a monthly basis, and  
944 forward to the group insurance commission, an amount equal to the retired employee's share of  
945 the premium as set by said chapter 32A and each annual appropriation act. Each optional  
946 retirement program plan provider shall be required to deduct and forward said premium amounts,  
947 as determined by the group insurance commission, to the group insurance commission in  
948 advance of the month for which the premium is due and in a manner as may be prescribed by the  
949 group insurance commission. For group insurance commission purposes employees who were  
950 members of the state retirement system when they became eligible to participate in the optional  
951 retirement program, and who then enrolled in the optional retirement program, may add their  
952 time in the state retirement system to their time in the optional retirement program in  
953 determining years of creditable service.

954 (f) No contribution shall be made under any provision of this section in excess of, or on  
955 the basis of compensation in excess of, any limitation that may be imposed pursuant to federal  
956 law including, but not limited to, the limitations in 26 U.S.C. sections 401(a)(17), 402(g), 403(b)  
957 and 415, to the extent such limitations apply. The center may adopt rules and regulations as it  
958 deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this section including, but not limited to, rules or  
959 regulations establishing such limitations only when it determines that such limitations are  
960 necessary to comply with applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

961 Section 15. The center shall be subject to subsection (i) of section 16G of chapter 6A and  
962 section 56 of chapter 23A.

963 SECTION 2. Section 30 of chapter 63, as most recently amended by sections 105 and  
964 106 of chapter 165 of the acts of 2014, is hereby further amended by adding the following  
965 paragraph:-

966 18. Notwithstanding the last sentence in subparagraph (b) of paragraph 5, to the extent  
967 authorized pursuant to the robotics tax incentive program established by section 4 of chapter  
968 23M, losses sustained in any taxable year by a taxpayer engaged in business as a robotics  
969 company as defined by section 1 of chapter 23M may, to the extent approved pursuant to said  
970 robotics tax incentive program, be carried forward for not more than 15 years; provided,  
971 however, that said losses shall not be carried back.

972 SECTION 3. Subsection (f) of section 38 of chapter 63, as appearing in section 37 of  
973 chapter 46 of the acts of 2013, is hereby amended by striking out the words “and (9) in the case  
974 of a business deriving receipts from operating a gaming establishment or otherwise deriving  
975 receipts from conducting a wagering business or activity, income-producing activity shall be  
976 considered to be performed in the commonwealth to the extent that the location of wagering  
977 transactions or activities that generated the receipts is in the commonwealth” and inserting in  
978 place thereof the following words:- (9) in the case of a business deriving receipts from operating  
979 a gaming establishment or otherwise deriving receipts from conducting a wagering business or  
980 activity, income-producing activity shall be considered to be performed in the commonwealth to  
981 the extent that the location of wagering transactions or activities that generated the receipts is in  
982 the commonwealth; and (10) to the extent authorized under the robotics tax incentive program

983 established by section 4 of chapter 23M, a certified robotics company may be deemed a research  
984 and development corporation for purposes of exemptions under chapters 64H and 64I.

985 SECTION 4. Section 38M of chapter 63, as amended by section 54 of chapter 287 of the  
986 acts of 2014, is hereby further amended by adding the following subsection:-

987 (1) (1) As used in this subsection, the following words shall, unless the context clearly  
988 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

989 “Robotics”, advanced and applied sciences that conceptualize, design, integrate, adapt,  
990 evaluate, construct, and expand the understanding of, autonomous systems or machines that are  
991 programmable by computer and capable of carrying out a complex series of actions  
992 automatically, and the components thereof, including, but not limited to, software,  
993 electromechanical systems, artificial intelligence technologies, mobility technologies and  
994 perception technologies.

995 “Person”, a natural person, corporation, association, partnership or other legal entity.

996 “Taxpayer”, a certified robotics company or person subject to the taxes imposed by  
997 chapters 62, 63, 64H or 64I.

998 (2) If a credit claimed pursuant to this section by a taxpayer exceeds the amount that may  
999 otherwise be allowed pursuant to this section for a taxable year, 90 per cent of the balance of that  
1000 credit may, at the option of the taxpayer and to the extent authorized pursuant to the robotics tax  
1001 incentive program established in subsection (d) of section 4 of chapter 23M, be refundable to the  
1002 taxpayer for the taxable year. If the credit balance is refunded to the taxpayer, the credit  
1003 carryover provisions of paragraph (f) shall not apply.

1004 SECTION 5. Chapter 63 is hereby amended by inserting after section 38FF, as appearing  
1005 in the 2012 Official Edition, the following 3 sections:-

1006 Section 38GG. (a) As used in this section and section 38HH, the following words shall,  
1007 unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:--

1008 “Person”, a natural person, corporation, association, partnership or other legal entity.

1009 “Robotics”, advanced and applied sciences that conceptualize, design, integrate, adapt,  
1010 evaluate, construct, and expand the understanding of, autonomous systems or machines that are  
1011 programmable by computer and capable of carrying out a complex series of actions  
1012 automatically, and the components thereof, including, but not limited to, software,  
1013 electromechanical systems, artificial intelligence technologies, mobility technologies and  
1014 perception technologies.

1015 “Taxpayer”, a robotics company or person subject to the taxes imposed by this chapter or  
1016 chapter 62, 64H or 64I.

1017 (b) A taxpayer may, to the extent authorized pursuant to the robotics tax incentive  
1018 program established by section 4 of chapter 23M, take a credit against the taxes imposed by this  
1019 chapter in an amount equal to 10 per cent of the cost of qualifying property acquired,  
1020 constructed, reconstructed or erected during the taxable year and used exclusively in the  
1021 commonwealth.

1022 Qualifying property shall be tangible personal property and other tangible property  
1023 including buildings and structural components of buildings acquired by purchase, as defined in  
1024 section 179(d) of the Code, as amended, and in effect for the taxable year, but not including



1025 property that is taxable under chapter 60A; provided, however, that such property shall be  
1026 depreciable under section 167 of the Code and shall have a useful life of 4 years or more.

1027         With respect to property which is disposed of or ceases to be in qualified use prior to the  
1028 end of the taxable year in which the credit is to be taken, the amount of the credit shall be that  
1029 portion of the credit provided for in this paragraph which represents the ratio which the months  
1030 of qualified use bear to the months of useful life. If property on which credit has been taken is  
1031 disposed of or ceases to be in qualified use prior to the end of its useful life, the difference  
1032 between the credit taken and the credit allowed for actual use must be added back as additional  
1033 taxes due in the year of disposition; provided, however, if such property is disposed of or ceases  
1034 to be in qualified use after it has been in qualified use for more than 12 consecutive years, it shall  
1035 not be necessary to add back the credit, as provided in this paragraph. The amount of credit  
1036 allowed for actual use shall be determined by multiplying the original credit by the ratio which  
1037 the months of qualified use bear to the months of useful life. For the purposes of this paragraph,  
1038 useful life of property shall be the same as that used by the corporation for depreciation purposes  
1039 when computing federal income tax liability.

1040         The credit allowed under this section may be taken by an eligible corporation; provided,  
1041 however, that neither credit allowed by section 31A nor section 31H is taken by such  
1042 corporation; and provided, further, that the credit allowed by section 38N shall not be taken  
1043 except to such extent, not to exceed 2 per cent of the cost of any qualifying property.

1044         Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the commissioner to make adjustments  
1045 to a taxpayer's liability upon audit or limit any other legal remedies available to the  
1046 commissioner or the commonwealth against said taxpayer.

1047 (c) The credit allowed by this section shall not be subject to section 32C.

1048 (d) If a taxpayer that is subject to a minimum excise under this chapter, the amount of the  
1049 credit allowed by this section shall not reduce the excise to an amount less than such minimum  
1050 excise.

1051 (e) A taxpayer entitled to a credit under this section for any taxable year may, to the  
1052 extent authorized pursuant to the robotics tax incentive program established by section 4 of  
1053 chapter 23M, carry over and apply to its excise for any 1 or more of the next succeeding 10  
1054 taxable years, the portion, as reduced from year to year, of those credits which were not allowed  
1055 by subsection (c) or which exceed the excise for the taxable year.

1056 (f) For corporations filing a combined return of income under section 32B, a credit  
1057 generated by an individual member corporation under this section shall first be applied against  
1058 the separately determined excise attributable to that member, subject to the limitations of  
1059 subsection (d). A member corporation with an excess credit may apply its excess credit against  
1060 the excise of another group member, to the extent that such other member corporation may use  
1061 additional credits under the limitation of paragraph (d). Unused, unexpired credits generated by  
1062 member corporations shall be carried over from year to year by the individual corporation that  
1063 generated the credit.

1064 (g) The commissioner shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement this section.  
1065 Said regulations may provide for the adjustment of intercompany prices and elimination of  
1066 intercompany transactions to ensure that all amounts upon which the credit is based reasonably  
1067 reflect fair market value and shall include provisions to prevent the generation of multiple credits  
1068 with respect to the same property.

1069 (h) If a credit allowed to a taxpayer under this section, or such credit as may be allowed  
1070 under section 38N of this chapter as limited in this subsection, exceeds the excise otherwise due  
1071 under this chapter, 90 per cent of the balance of such credit may, at the option of the taxpayer  
1072 and to the extent authorized pursuant to the robotics tax incentive program established by section  
1073 4 of chapter 23M, be refundable to the taxpayer for the taxable year in which qualified property  
1074 giving rise to that credit is placed in service. If such credit balance is refunded to the taxpayer,  
1075 the credit carryover provisions of subsection (e) and said section 38N shall not apply.

1076 Section 38HH. (a) A taxpayer may, to the extent authorized pursuant to the robotics tax  
1077 incentive program established by section 4 of chapter 23M, be allowed a credit against its excise  
1078 due under this chapter equal to the sum of 10 per cent of the excess, if any, of the qualified  
1079 research expenses for the taxable year, over the base amount, and 15 per cent of the basic  
1080 research payments determined pursuant to section 41(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code. The  
1081 terms “qualified research expenses”, “base amount”, “qualified organization base period  
1082 amount”, “basic research” and any other terms affecting the calculation of the credit shall, unless  
1083 the context otherwise requires or unless otherwise stated in this section, have the same meanings  
1084 as under said section 41 of said Code.

1085 In determining the amount of the credit allowable under this section, the commissioner of  
1086 revenue may aggregate the activities of all corporations that are members of a controlled group  
1087 of corporations, as defined by 41(f)(1)(A) of said Code, and may aggregate the activities of all  
1088 entities, whether or not incorporated, that are under common control, as defined in section  
1089 41(f)(1)(B) of said Code.

1090 (b) For a qualified robotics company, research and development costs, within the  
1091 meaning of section 41 of said Code, shall include, to the extent they relate to legally mandated  
1092 clinical trial activities, those qualified research expenditures that are performed both inside and  
1093 outside of the commonwealth.

1094 (c) For purposes of section 30, the deduction from gross income that may be taken with  
1095 respect to any expenditures qualifying for a credit under said section 41 of said Code shall be  
1096 based upon its cost less the credit allowable under this section; provided, however, that section  
1097 280C(c) of said Code shall not apply.

1098 (d) The credit allowed hereunder for any taxable year shall not reduce the excise to less  
1099 than the amount due under subsection (b) of section 39, section 67 or under any other general or  
1100 special law.

1101 (e) The credit allowed under this section shall be limited to 100 per cent of a  
1102 corporation's first \$25,000 of excise, as determined before the allowance of any credits, plus 75  
1103 per cent of the corporation's excise, as so determined in excess of \$25,000. The commissioner of  
1104 revenue shall promulgate regulations similar to those authorized under section 38(c)(2)(B) of the  
1105 Internal Revenue Code for purposes of apportioning the \$25,000 amount among members of a  
1106 controlled group. Nothing in this section shall alter section 32C, as it affects other credits under  
1107 this chapter.

1108 (f) If a corporation files a combined return of income under section 32B, a credit  
1109 generated by an individual member corporation under this section shall first be applied against  
1110 the excise attributable to that company under sections 32 or 39, subject to the limitations of  
1111 subsections (d) and (e). A member corporation with an excess research and development credit

1112 may apply its excess credit against the excise of another group member if such other member  
1113 corporation may use additional credits under the limitations of said subsections (d) and (e).  
1114 Unused, unexpired credits generated by a member corporation shall be carried over from year to  
1115 year by the individual corporation that generated the credit and shall not be refundable. Nothing  
1116 in this section shall alter subsection (h) of section 31A.

1117 (g) A corporation entitled to a credit under this section for any taxable year may carry  
1118 over and apply to its excise for any of the next succeeding 15 taxable years that portion, as  
1119 reduced from year to year, of its credit which exceeds its excise for the taxable year. A  
1120 corporation may carry over and apply to its excise for any subsequent taxable year that portion,  
1121 as reduced from year to year, of those credits which were not allowed by subsection (f).

1122 (h) The commissioner of revenue shall promulgate regulations necessary to carry out this  
1123 section.

1124 Section 38II.

1125 (a) A taxpayer, to the extent authorized by the robotics tax incentive program established  
1126 in section 4 of chapter 23M, may be allowed a refundable jobs credit against the tax liability  
1127 imposed under this chapter in an amount determined by the Mass Robotics Center in consultation  
1128 with the department.

1129 (b) A taxpayer taking a credit under this section shall commit to the creation of a  
1130 minimum of 50 net new permanent full-time positions in the commonwealth.

1131 (c) A credit allowed under this section shall reduce the liability of the taxpayer under this  
1132 chapter for the taxable year. If a credit claimed under this section by a taxpayer exceeds the

1133 taxpayer's liability as otherwise determined under this chapter for the taxable year, 90 per cent of  
1134 such excess credit, to the extent authorized pursuant to the robotics tax incentive program, shall  
1135 be refundable to the taxpayer. Excess credit amounts shall not be carried forward to other taxable  
1136 years.

1137 (d) The department shall issue the refundable portion of the jobs credit without further  
1138 appropriation and in accordance with the cumulative amount, including the current year costs of  
1139 incentives allowed in previous years, which shall not exceed \$25,000,000 annually as set forth in  
1140 subsection (d) of said section 4 of said chapter 23M.

1141 SECTION 6. Subsection (c) of section 42B of said chapter 63, as appearing in the 2012  
1142 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

1143 To the extent authorized pursuant to the robotics tax incentive program established by  
1144 section 4 of chapter 23M, a certified robotics company may be deemed a research and  
1145 development corporation for purposes of exemptions under chapters 64H and 64I.

1146 SECTION 7. Section 6 of chapter 64H is hereby amended by inserting after subsection  
1147 (xx), as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, the following subsection:-

1148 (yy) (1) As used in this subsection, the following words shall, unless the context clearly  
1149 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:--

1150 "Robotics", advanced and applied sciences that conceptualize, design, integrate, adapt,  
1151 evaluate, construct, and expand the understanding of, autonomous systems or machines that are  
1152 programmable by computer and capable of carrying out a complex series of actions  
1153 automatically, and the components thereof, including, but not limited to, software,

1154 electromechanical systems, artificial intelligence technologies, mobility technologies and  
1155 perception technologies.

1156 “Robotics company”, a business corporation, partnership, firm, unincorporated  
1157 association or other entity engaged in robotics research, development, manufacturing or  
1158 commercialization in the commonwealth, and any affiliate thereof, which is, or the members of  
1159 which are, subject to taxation under this chapter.

1160 “Utility support systems”, all areas of utility support systems including, but not limited  
1161 to, site, civil, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

1162 (2) Sales of tangible personal property purchased for a certified robotics company, to the  
1163 extent authorized pursuant to the robotics tax incentive program established by section 4 of  
1164 chapter 23M, for use in connection with the construction, alteration, remodeling, repair or  
1165 remediation of research, development or manufacturing facilities and utility support systems.  
1166 Only purchases made on or after the effective date of this section shall be eligible for this  
1167 exemption.

1168 SECTION 8. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 10 days after  
1169 the effective date of this act, the comptroller shall transfer \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to  
1170 the Massachusetts Robotics Investment Fund established pursuant to section 5 of chapter 23M of  
1171 the General Laws.