

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4168**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Chris Walsh*

*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 to enhance employment outcomes and strengthening workforce development programs for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>William L. Crocker, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>William M. Straus</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>John Barrett</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mark J. Cusack</i>	<i>5th Norfolk</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>

<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Thomas P. Walsh</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>

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By Mr. Walsh of Framingham, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Chris Walsh and others for legislation to establish a center for workforce development programs for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities within the Department of Career Services. Labor and Workforce Development.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to enhance employment outcomes and strengthening workforce development programs for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 23H: of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 Section 11 the following new section:

3           Section 12. (a) There shall be established a Statewide Center for Innovation and Change  
4 offering workforce development programs for persons with intellectual and developmental  
5 disabilities. The Statewide Center for Innovation and Change shall support staff development  
6 and innovation leading to an increased ability to place and support persons with disabilities in  
7 typical employment settings.

8           (b) The Center shall work with community rehabilitation programs in adopting policies,  
9 procedures and practices that increase the placement of individuals with intellectual and  
10 developmental disabilities. The Statewide Center for Innovation and Change shall offer training  
11 and intensive technical assistance, as well as program evaluation to those community

12 rehabilitation programs and work with school age children, beginning at age 14 and adults with  
13 intellectual disabilities. These individuals may be referred to the Statewide Center for Innovation  
14 and Change by the Department of Developmental Services offering employment for such  
15 individuals. The Center may partner with the Department of Developmental Services to provide  
16 funds to direct service provider agencies in order to modify their structures, increase staff skills  
17 and correspondingly increase their placement rates for persons with intellectual and  
18 developmental disabilities served.

19           The Statewide Center for Innovation and Change shall recruit employers to assist in the  
20 identification of jobs as well as support the advancement of these individuals in the workplace.

21 The center shall be run by a university center for excellence in disabilities, based at a public  
22 research university located in Massachusetts.