

SENATE No. 1805

Senate, June 17, 2013 -- The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill encouraging low-income savings and economic opportunity (House, No. 19); reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft entitled "An Act to foster economic independence"(Senate, No. 1805).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to foster economic independence.

Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for improvements to the department of transitional assistance in the commonwealth, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. To provide for improvements to the department of transitional assistance in
2 the commonwealth in fiscal year 2013, the sums set forth in sections 2 and 2A are hereby
3 appropriated from the General Fund for the several purposes and subject to the conditions
4 specified in this act and subject to laws regulating the disbursement of public funds; provided,
5 however, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, appropriations made
6 herein shall not revert and shall be available for expenditure until June 30, 2014. The sums
7 appropriated in this act shall be in addition to any amounts previously appropriated and made
8 available for these purposes.

9 SECTION 2.

10 OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES.

11 *Department of Transitional Assistance.*

12 3000-4050\$8,000,000

13 4400-1000\$360,000

14 4400-1100\$2,910,000

15 4401-1000\$300,000

16 4403-2119\$500,000

17 SECTION 2A.

18 4400-1979 For the department of transitional assistance; provided, that the department
19 shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth Corporation to make
20 available not less than \$5,000,000 from this item for the full employment program under
21 subsection (l) of section 110 of chapter 5 of the acts of 1995, as amended by this
22 act.....\$5,000,000.

23 4400-1980 For the department of transitional assistance; provided, that the department
24 may expend not more than \$6,000,000 from performance bonuses paid by the United States
25 Department of Agriculture, which were received for exceeding program requirements in the
26 supplemental nutrition assistance program administered by the department, for the operation of
27 employment and training services provided by the Commonwealth Corporation under the full
28 employment program under subsection (l) of section 110 of chapter 5 of the acts of 1995, as

29 amended by this act; provided further, that not less than 10 per cent of funds spent for the
30 employment and training services provided under the full employment program shall be reserved
31 for external evaluation of that portion of the full employment program; provided further that the
32 evaluator selected shall be consulted in program design in order to ensure that program
33 effectiveness can be accurately assessed; provided further, that the evaluator shall be selected
34 through a competitive process and that the selected evaluator shall demonstrate: (i) prior
35 experience in evaluating the impact of social programs on low-income urban youth and
36 communities using either random assignment of treatment or regression discontinuity methods;
37 (ii) prior experience in field evaluation; and (iii) prior experience using quantitative analysis
38 relevant for program evaluation; provided further, that when selecting an independent evaluator,
39 the department shall consider: (A) a sample of previous similar work; (B) the ability to perform
40 requested services; and (C) a proposed evaluation budget; provided further, that the department
41 shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on
42 children, families and persons with disabilities on the employment and training services provided
43 by the full employment program; and provided further, that notwithstanding any general or
44 special law to the contrary, for the purpose of accommodating timing discrepancies between the
45 receipt of retained revenues and related expenditures, the department may incur expenses and the
46 comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the
47 most recent revenue estimate as reported in the state accounting system.....\$6,000,000

48 SECTION 3. Paragraph (B) of section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as amended
49 by chapter 161 of the acts of 2012, is hereby amended by inserting after clause (j) the following
50 6 clauses:-

51 (k) on a bi-annual basis, not later than January 1 and July 1, file a report detailing the
52 number of exemptions and extensions granted to recipients of cash assistance under transitional
53 aid to families with dependent children and the reasons for granting such exemptions and
54 extensions. The report shall be filed with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate
55 who shall forward the report to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on children,
56 families and persons with disabilities and the house and senate committees on ways and means;

57 (l) annually, not later than April 1, file a report which shall include, but not be limited to,
58 information regarding caseloads, including how long recipients have been receiving cash
59 assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children and how much recipients
60 have received. The report shall not contain any recipient's personal identifying information. The
61 report shall be filed with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate who shall
62 forward the report to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on children, families and
63 persons with disabilities and the house and senate committees on ways and means;

64 (m) annually, not later than September 1, file a report detailing the reasons why recipients
65 of cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children are applying for
66 additional benefits beyond their initial 24 month period; provided, that this shall include, but not
67 be limited to, an analysis of how the recipient failed to meet the recipient's economic
68 independence goals, as required by section 15 of chapter 118. The report shall be filed with the
69 clerks of the house of representatives and the senate who shall forward the report to the house
70 and senate chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities and
71 the house and senate committees on ways and means;

72 (n) on a quarterly basis, file a report detailing the number of cases referred to the
73 department's program integrity division and the results of each investigation. The reports shall be
74 filed with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate who shall forward the reports
75 to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with
76 disabilities and the house and senate committees on ways and means;

77 (o) annually, not later than December 1, file a report detailing the use of economic
78 independence accounts, established under section 5 of chapter 18, that have been opened by
79 recipients of cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children; provided,
80 that this shall include, but not be limited to the number of accounts opened and the average
81 balances in the accounts. The report shall be filed with the clerks of the house of representatives
82 and the senate who shall forward the report to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee
83 on children, families and persons with disabilities and the house and senate committees on ways
84 and means; and

85 (p) annually, not later than March 1, file a report detailing the number of recipients
86 receiving cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children who are
87 present in the United States under 1 of the eligible noncitizen statuses as described in 106 CMR
88 203.675 (A). The report shall be filed with the clerks of the house of representatives and the
89 senate who shall forward the report to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
90 children, families and persons with disabilities and the house and senate committees on ways and
91 means.

92 SECTION 4. Section 5 of said chapter 18, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, is
93 hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

94 The commissioner shall establish specialist positions within the department. The
95 specialists shall focus on providing targeted employment and training assistance to recipients that
96 the department determines have a high risk of long term dependence on state benefits and require
97 specialized assistance to achieve economic independence. These recipients shall include teen
98 parents and may include other recipients defined by the department. Each office location shall
99 have specialists. Specialists shall provide focused intervention and assistance to recipients and
100 shall have a caseload of not more than 60 recipients. The commissioner shall: track the progress
101 made by recipients who are receiving targeted assistance under this section in reaching economic
102 independence and transitioning off transitional aid to families with dependent children; track
103 each specialist's success, as determined by the department, in assisting recipients; and report the
104 results to the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than December 31 of
105 each year.

106 SECTION 5. Said chapter 18 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 5N the
107 following section:-

108 Section 5O. (a) The department shall include on the front of each newly issued and re-
109 issued electronic benefit transfer card a photograph of the cardholder; provided that the
110 cardholder is over the age of 18 years. The department shall promulgate regulations to ensure
111 that all members of the household are able to use the electronic benefit transfer card as required
112 by 7 U.S.C.A. §2016 (h) (9) and to ensure that authorized users are able to use the electronic
113 benefit transfer card.

114 A store owner or employee shall check that the photograph on an electronic benefit
115 transfer card matches the identity of the person making a purchase or follow the procedures for

116 authenticating authorized users, as determined by the department. A store owner shall be fined
117 for each instance in which the store owner or an employee knowingly fails to check that the
118 photograph on an electronic benefit transfer card matches the person making the purchase or that
119 the purchaser is an authorized user of the electronic benefit transfer card and thereby permits an
120 individual who is not authorized to use the card to purchase goods. The store owner shall be
121 punished by a fine of not more than \$500 for a first offense, not less than \$500 nor more than
122 \$2,500 for a second offense and not less than \$2,500 for a third or subsequent offense.

123 (b) The department shall include the fraud hotline number and department website on all newly
124 issued electronic benefit transfer cards.

125 SECTION 6. The first paragraph of section 22 of said chapter 18, as so appearing, is
126 hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- Self-declarations by applicants or recipients
127 of transitional aid to families with dependent children shall be signed under the penalties of
128 perjury and, if possible, shall not be accepted as the sole verification of categorical and financial
129 eligibility during eligibility evaluations and reviews.

130 SECTION 7. The second paragraph of said section 22 of said chapter 18, as so appearing,
131 is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following
132 sentence:- The department shall determine which verification requirements can be reasonably
133 met by third party affidavits and shall provide notification to recipients and applicants of the
134 circumstances under which third party affidavits may be used; provided, however, that all work
135 participation forms shall be verified by a third party who shall sign the work participation form
136 under the penalties of perjury.

137 SECTION 8. Said chapter 18 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 30 the
138 following 7 sections:-

139 Section 31. The department, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Corporation, shall
140 develop a job diversion program for applicants for cash assistance under transitional aid to
141 families with dependent children to identify applicants who have the necessary job skills and
142 experience and match those applicants with appropriate full-time employment before receiving
143 benefits. The job diversion program shall be mandatory for all identified applicants over the age
144 of 18 who are not attending a secondary school full time or participating in an education or
145 training activity, as defined in 106 CMR 203.400(A) (2)(i); provided however, that the program
146 shall not be mandatory for an applicant who is exempt from the work requirements under 106
147 CMR 203.400 (A)(1)(a) through (c), inclusive.

148 The program shall identify able-bodied applicants who are capable of working and
149 attempt to match them with jobs prior to receiving benefits. For those identified applicants who
150 are not connected with full-time employment prior to receiving cash assistance, the department
151 shall provide a written finding as to why the job diversion program was not successful and the
152 findings shall be part of the applicant's case file.

153 Section 32. The department of transitional assistance shall require applicants or recipients
154 of cash assistance to provide their social security number within 3 months of being assigned a
155 placeholder social security number; provided, however, that this shall not apply to recipients who
156 are present in the United States under 1 of the eligible noncitizen statuses as described in 106
157 CMR 203.675 (A). Failure to provide a valid social security number within 3 months shall result
158 in the suspension of benefits until a valid social security number is provided and verified by the

159 department. The department of transitional assistance shall promulgate regulations in accordance
160 with this section.

161 Section 33. The department of transitional assistance shall require all training and
162 employment service programs contracted through the department to track the outcomes of
163 individuals served by the program for at least 1 year after transitioning into employment. The
164 department shall determine the number of individuals that each employment service program is
165 required to track.

166 Section 34. The department of transitional assistance shall ensure that when recipients of
167 cash assistance call the department during normal business hours they are able to speak with a
168 caseworker.

169 Section 35. The department of transitional assistance shall develop a fraud detection
170 program. The fraud detection program shall analyze the risk of fraud and refer any cases of
171 suspected fraud to the program integrity division or the bureau of special investigations in the
172 office of the state auditor. In analyzing risk of fraud and identifying cases for investigation, the
173 program shall consider: (i) even dollar transactions; (ii) full benefit withdrawal; (iii) usage
174 patterns; and (iv) other relevant data sources. In order to assist the program in identifying and
175 investigating likely cases of fraud, the department shall develop and make available reports
176 identifying even dollar transactions by cardholder, instances of full benefit withdrawal and other
177 data reports, as necessary.

178 Section 36. The department of transitional assistance shall allow applicants or recipients
179 who are employed a monthly \$150 work-related expense deduction from gross wages in

180 determining eligibility and in determining the amount of the cash assistance grant. The
181 department shall promulgate regulations in accordance with this section.

182 Section 37. Subject to appropriation, the department shall implement a fraud risk
183 assessment system that shall define risk and prioritize client groups based upon their risk
184 assessment. Through the system, the department shall identify areas where increased scrutiny is
185 warranted for high-risk client groups and shall identify ways to streamline procedures for low-
186 risk client groups. The department shall use the most cost effective software to develop its fraud
187 risk assessment system.

188 SECTION 9. Chapter 118 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
189 following 6 sections:-

190 Section 12. A temporary absence from the commonwealth which exceeds 30 calendar
191 days shall create a rebuttable presumption that Massachusetts residency has been abandoned by a
192 recipient of cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children and the
193 recipient is no longer eligible for assistance. The department of transitional assistance shall
194 promulgate regulations in accordance with this section.

195 Section 13. (a) The department shall require all adult applicants who are not exempt from
196 the work requirement to conduct an initial job search prior to receiving cash assistance.
197 Applicants shall provide evidence of this search by returning to the department a list of the
198 potential employers contacted, the date of contact and the name and telephone number of the
199 person with whom the applicant spoke, to the extent feasible. All initial job search
200 documentation shall be signed by the applicant under the penalties of perjury. The number of
201 potential employers to be contacted by the applicant shall be determined by the department. An

202 applicant shall provide the information before the applicant's case approval. An applicant who
203 fails to provide this information within 30 days of filing the application shall have the application
204 denied. The department shall promulgate regulations in accordance with this subsection.

205 (b) The department shall require adult recipients, who are not exempt from the work
206 requirements and who did not receive full-time employment under the full employment program,
207 to provide, on a weekly basis, evidence of job searches by returning to the department a list of
208 the employers contacted, the date of contact and the name and telephone number of the person
209 with whom the applicant spoke, to the extent feasible. The department of transitional assistance
210 shall terminate the cash assistance for a recipient who fails to provide such accurate information;
211 provided, however, the department shall not terminate the cash assistance provided to the
212 recipient's dependent children. The department shall promulgate regulations in accordance with
213 this section.

214 Section 14. The department shall not calculate a separate 60 month benefit period for an
215 individual who receives aid under transitional aid to families with dependent children if the
216 individual is part of a 2 parent assistance unit. The department shall promulgate regulations in
217 accordance with this section.

218 Section 15. The department shall develop economic independence goals for all recipients
219 of cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children to be completed
220 during the recipient's first 24 month period of receiving benefits. The economic independence
221 goals shall assist a recipient in determining a path through which the recipient will be able to be
222 self-sufficient. Recipients who re-apply for benefits at any time after the first 24 month period
223 shall be required to demonstrate a good faith attempt to meet their goals prior to receiving

224 additional benefits. Recipients who fail to demonstrate a good faith attempt to meet all of their
225 goals shall not receive additional benefits or an extension of benefits; provided, however that this
226 shall not prohibit a recipient from receiving benefits on behalf of a dependent child.

227 Section 16. The department shall develop a savings program that allows recipients of
228 cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children to accumulate assets
229 outside of the asset limit. The savings accounts shall be called economic independence accounts.
230 The economic independence accounts shall be used to help recipients save for the first and last
231 month of rent and the security deposit or may be used for any other reason determined by the
232 department to assist recipients as they transition off of benefits. The economic independence
233 accounts shall not be included as a countable asset under 106 CMR 204.120.

234 For recipients of cash assistance who elect to participate in the program, the department
235 shall require a designated amount of a recipient's cash assistance to be held in an escrow account
236 for the recipient until the recipient is no longer eligible or in need of benefits; provided further,
237 that the department shall allow a recipient to deposit additional funds to the account. While a
238 recipient is receiving benefits, funds in the economic independence account shall only be
239 withdrawn for limited emergency needs, as determined by the department. If a recipient, who is
240 currently receiving benefits, uses funds from the account for any purpose other than an
241 emergency or a department approved purpose, then the department shall reduce the recipient's
242 monthly cash assistance until the cumulative reductions are equal to the amount used for a non-
243 allowable purpose. The department shall promulgate regulations in accordance with this section;
244 provided that the commissioner shall submit any proposed regulations to the joint committee on
245 children, families and persons with disabilities and the house and senate committees on ways and
246 means 30 days before their adoption by the department.

247 Section 17. The department shall require unverified applicants for cash assistance for a
248 dependent under transitional aid to families with dependent children to provide proof of income
249 and assets. For purposes of this section, unverified applicants shall mean an applicant who has
250 not provided the required information about citizenship or immigration status.

251 SECTION 10. Chapter 121B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
252 section 32F the following section:-

253 Section 32G. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a recipient
254 of state or municipally funded or subsidized housing with dependent children under the age of 16
255 shall comply with the requirements of subsection (b).

256 (b) Each non-disabled recipient, as defined and determined by the department of housing
257 and community development, shall provide documentation to the applicable Housing authority,
258 not less frequently than quarterly, that any child under the age of 16 has missed not more than 8
259 unexcused school days during the previous quarter; provided, however, that absences due to the
260 following reasons shall be considered excused absences: (i) illness, as certified by a physician or
261 by other proof that the department determines is adequate; (ii) hospitalization; (iii) disability, as
262 defined by the department; (iv) death of a family member; or (v) crisis situations as defined by
263 the undersecretary.

264 (c) A non-disabled recipient who does not, without good cause, provide the
265 documentation required by subsection (b) within the reasonable time established by the
266 department or whose documentation indicates that the child has had more than 8 unexcused
267 absences from school during the prior quarter shall be placed on probationary status, during
268 which time the recipient shall be required to provide monthly documentation of the child's

269 school attendance. The recipient shall remain on probationary status until the child's unexcused
270 absences during the 6 preceding school months does not exceed 10 school days.

271 If a child under the age of 16 has more than 3 unexcused absences during any month that
272 the recipient is on probationary status, then the recipient shall not be eligible for state or
273 municipally funded or subsidized housing until the recipient provides documentation that the
274 child has not had more than 3 unexcused absences during any month from school.

275 (d) Notwithstanding section 27C of chapter 29 or any other general or special law to the
276 contrary and without regard to any acceptance or appropriation by a city, town or regional school
277 district and without regard to any appropriation by the general court, any school attended by a
278 child to which this section applies shall provide the documentation required by this section upon
279 the request of the recipient.

280 SECTION 11. The definition of "Child of record" in subsection (a) of section 110 of
281 chapter 5 of the acts of 1995 is hereby amended by adding the following words:- ; provided,
282 however, that the commissioner shall develop specific criteria for approving exceptions or
283 waivers to the family cap provision for extraordinary circumstances and shall only grant an
284 exception or waiver when the specific criteria is met.

285 SECTION 12. Subsection (b) of said section 110 of said chapter 5, as amended by section
286 308 of chapter 159 of the acts of 2000, is hereby further amended by striking out the words
287 "provided, however, that the fair market value of any licensed motor vehicle does not exceed an
288 amount determined by the commissioner in consultation with the secretary of the executive
289 office of transportation and construction and the equity value of any licensed motor vehicle does
290 not exceed \$5,000; provided, further, that any value in excess of said five thousand dollars shall

291 be attributed toward said family's countable resources" and inserting in place thereof the
292 following words:- provided, however, that an assistance unit shall be allowed 1 vehicle that shall
293 not be attributed toward the family's countable resources.

294 SECTION 13. Said subsection (b) of said section 110 of said chapter 5 is hereby further
295 amended by adding the following paragraph:- The department shall exclude from a filing unit's
296 countable income any earned income of dependent children of the assistance unit who are
297 working part-time while attending school full time. The department shall promulgate regulations
298 in accordance with this section, including, but not limited to, updating clause (2) of subsection
299 (D) of 106 CMR 204.210.

300 SECTION 14. Subsection (e) of said section 110 of said chapter 5 is hereby amended by
301 striking out clauses (1) and (2) and inserting in place thereof the following 2 clauses:-

302 (1) recipients who are disabled, as defined by the federal Social Security Act, 42
303 U.S.C.A. § 423 (d); provided that in families with 2 parents, both parents are disabled; provided
304 further, that to the extent permitted by federal law, the word "disabled" shall not include
305 recipients who are dependent on alcohol or drugs or whose disability is based in whole or in part
306 on previous dependency. A recipient who requests an exemption under this clause shall, as a
307 condition of continued eligibility for transitional aid to families with dependent children, apply
308 for supplemental security income (SSI) and, if requested by the department, appeal a denial of
309 SSI benefits. Recipients who do not comply with the department's request to apply for SSI or
310 appeal a decision shall not be granted a work exemption under this clause.

311 (2) recipients who must care for a disabled child or spouse. A recipient who requests an
312 exemption under this clause shall apply for SSI benefits on behalf of their dependent.

313 SECTION 15. Clause (3) of subsection (e) of said section 110 of said chapter 5 is hereby
314 amended by striking out the words “recipients in their third trimester of pregnancy” and inserting
315 in place thereof the following words:- recipients in their thirty-third week or later of pregnancy,
316 recipients in their third trimester of pregnancy who have submitted documentation signed by a
317 primary care provider as defined in section 1 of chapter 111 of the General Laws or an
318 obstetrician, gynecologist, nurse-midwife or family practitioner registered and certified under
319 chapter 112 of the General Laws that the recipient has a medical condition that prevents the
320 recipient from working.

321 SECTION 16. The first sentence of the fourth paragraph of subsection (f) of said section
322 110 of said chapter 5 is hereby amended by inserting after the word “extended” the following
323 words:- ; provided that an extension of benefits shall not exceed 3 months.

324 SECTION 17. The first paragraph of subsection (j) of said section 110 of said chapter 5 is
325 hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- The department shall exempt from the work
326 requirements a recipient who is age 66 or older; provided further, that the department shall
327 promulgate regulations in accordance with this sentence, including, but not limited to updating
328 106 CMR 203.100 (A)(1)(h).

329 SECTION 18. Said section 110 of said chapter 5 is hereby further amended by striking
330 out subsection (l), as most recently amended by section 157 of chapter 43 of the acts of 1997,
331 and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

332 (l) The Commonwealth Corporation, in collaboration with the department, shall establish
333 a full employment program to match applicants with full-time employment in a manner which
334 promotes self-sufficiency, including the ability to transition off cash assistance. The

335 Commonwealth Corporation shall administer the program through a memorandum of
336 understanding with the department. The full employment program shall be mandatory for all
337 applicants, except those that are exempt from the work requirements under subsection (e) or
338 assigned to a specialized caseworker under section 5 of chapter 18 of the General Laws or under
339 paragraph (3) of subsection (i). Under the full employment program, in lieu of receiving cash
340 assistance under the program of aid to families with dependent children, applicants shall receive
341 full-time employment. During the first year of employment under the full employment program
342 applicants shall receive a child care voucher. Applicants who the Commonwealth Corporation
343 determines require additional skills or training in order to be eligible for full employment
344 program jobs shall receive cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent
345 children, if otherwise eligible, and be referred to an appropriate educational or training program.

346 In order to implement the full employment program, the Commonwealth Corporation
347 shall work with the business community to identify jobs and to match the skills required for each
348 job with applicants. The Commonwealth Corporation shall work to connect applicants with
349 employment in emerging professions.

350 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of reducing or
351 eliminating the amount of contributions or payments made by employers and applicants
352 participating in the full employment program toward the cost of qualified medical insurance,
353 employers and applicants who participate in the full employment program shall receive insurance
354 reimbursement under section 9C of chapter 118E of the General Laws. The insurance
355 reimbursement shall be provided to employers participating in the full employment program
356 regardless of whether the employer employs more than 50 employees or meets the other
357 requirements of an “eligible employer” under said section 9C or under the regulations. The

358 insurance reimbursement shall be provided to any recipient employed through the full
359 employment program regardless of whether the recipient is an eligible employee under said
360 section 9C. Reimbursements to employers under this paragraph shall be in accordance with
361 subsection (4) of said section 9C, but shall not be subject to limitation by MassHealth in
362 accordance with paragraph (C) of subsection (2) of said section 9C. Reimbursements to
363 recipients under this paragraph shall not be subject to paragraph (A) of subsection (2) of said
364 section 9C but shall be in accordance with a fee schedule set forth in regulations promulgated by
365 MassHealth in consultation with the department of transitional assistance. Reimbursements
366 under this section shall be subject to all other applicable requirements of said section 9C.

367 In order to ensure appropriate training for those not initially able to participate in the full
368 employment program, the Commonwealth Corporation shall work with the community colleges,
369 vocational schools, one-stop career centers, adult basic education programs and other workforce
370 training programs to identify and develop, if necessary, programs and resources and refer
371 applicants to these programs or resources.

372 SECTION 19. Section 121 of said chapter 5 is hereby amended by striking out in lines 3,
373 8 and 25 the word “fourteen” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following
374 figure:- 16.

375 SECTION 20. Item 4000-0890 of section 2 of chapter 139 of the acts of 2012 is hereby
376 amended by adding the following words:- : provided further, that \$15,000,000 shall be used to
377 provide insurance reimbursement to employers participating in the full employment program
378 created under subsection (l) of section 110 of chapter 5 of the acts of 1995.

379 SECTION 21. Item 4400-1000 of said section 2 of said chapter 139 is hereby amended
380 by adding the following words:- ; provided further, that the department shall hire not fewer than
381 6 investigators in the fraud investigations and data matching unit.

382 SECTION 22. Item 4400-1100 of said section 2 of said chapter 139 is hereby amended
383 by adding the following words:- ; provided further, that the department shall hire 50 additional
384 caseworkers; provided further, that funds shall be expended for the specialists positions required
385 under section 5 of chapter 18 of the General Laws.

386 SECTION 23. Item 4401-1000 of said section 2 of said chapter 139 is hereby amended
387 by adding the following words:- provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be used for an
388 independent consultant to review the effectiveness of the commonwealth's specific employment
389 and training service programs, which are provided for under this item, in providing a pathway to
390 financial independence; provided further, that this review shall include, but not be limited to, an
391 analysis of the employment outcomes for clients in the commonwealth, an analysis of each
392 program according to a common set of metrics, interviews with staff from the department and
393 programs, interviews with program clients, interviews with employers and recommendations for
394 specific changes and improvements to the employment and training services provided by the
395 commonwealth; and provided further, that a copy of the consultant's report shall be filed with the
396 clerks of the senate and house of representatives.

397 SECTION 24. Notwithstanding any general or special law, subject to appropriation, the
398 integrated eligibility system (IES), developed by the executive office of health and human
399 services, shall allow multiple state agencies and programs to access and share data by creating
400 data hubs and streamlining information processes. Through the integrated eligibility system, the

401 department of housing and community development, housing authorities and state health and
402 human services agencies and programs, including, but not limited to, transitional aid to families
403 with dependent children, temporary assistance for needy families and MassHealth shall share and
404 have access to the data.

405 SECTION 25. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department
406 of transitional assistance shall develop a plan to reduce paperwork. The plan shall progressively
407 eliminate the need to use hard copies of forms.

408 SECTION 26. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department
409 of housing and community development shall allow the Worcester Housing authority to operate
410 the authority's A Better Life program in state subsidized housing.

411 SECTION 27. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a pregnant
412 teen who meets all other eligibility requirements shall be eligible to live in a teen parent shelter
413 or participate in a teen living program during her entire pregnancy and shall be eligible to receive
414 cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children; provided that, that she
415 meets the school attendance requirements set forth in 106 CMR 203.610; provided further, that
416 she meets the requirements set forth in 106 CMR 203.630.

417 SECTION 28. The department of transitional assistance, if required, shall seek a federal
418 exemption or waiver in order to implement this act.

419 SECTION 29. Each section of this act shall be subject to federal approval, if required.
420 Any section that is inconsistent with federal law or regulations shall be void unless the
421 department receives an exemption or waiver from the federal government to implement said
422 section.

423 SECTION 30. All electronic benefit cards shall include a photograph of the cardholder
424 under section 50 of chapter 18 of the General Laws by August 1, 2014.

425 SECTION 31. The department of transitional assistance shall promulgate regulations
426 under section 32 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, including, but not limited to, updating 106
427 CMR 701.230.

428 SECTION 32. The department of transitional assistance shall promulgate regulations
429 under section 36 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, including, but not limited to updating 106
430 CMR 204.270.

431 SECTION 33. The department of transitional assistance shall promulgate regulations
432 under section 12 of chapter 118 of the General Laws, including, but not limited to, updating 106
433 CMR 203.660.

434 SECTION 34. The department of transitional assistance shall promulgate regulations
435 under section 13 of chapter 118 of the General Laws, including, but not limited to, updating 106
436 CMR 203.400.

437 SECTION 35. The department of transitional assistance shall promulgate regulations
438 under section 13 of chapter 118 of the General Laws, including, but not limited to, updating 106
439 CMR 203.200.

440 SECTION 36. Section 5 shall take effect 6 months after the effective date of this act.

441 SECTION 37. Sections 4, 10, 11, 18 of this act, sections 31 and 33 of chapter 18 of the
442 General Laws and sections 13, 15 and 16 of chapter 118 of the General Laws shall take effect 90
443 days after the effective date of this act.