

SENATE No. 2119

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act establishing a Commonwealth citizen service initiative.

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 6D the
2 following chapter:-

3 CHAPTER 6E.

4 MASSACHUSETTS SERVICE ALLIANCE COMMISSION.

5 Section 1. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Service Alliance
6 Commission Law".

7 Section 2. (a) There shall be a Massachusetts Service Alliance Commission, referred to in
8 this chapter as the MSA for the purpose of advising and assisting in the development and
9 implementation of a comprehensive, state-wide plan for promoting volunteer involvement and
10 citizen participation, as well as to serve as the commonwealth's liaison to national and state
11 organizations which support the MSA's mission. The MSA shall establish guidelines and
12 programs to reform, expand, replicate and implement community service and volunteer
13 opportunities in the commonwealth. The programs and activities shall be coordinated among
14 state departments and agencies to optimize the allocation of resources. The MSA shall
15 promulgate regulations necessary to implement this section.

16 (b) The Service Alliance Commission membership shall meet the requirements of the
17 National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, as amended.

18 Section 3. The MSA's duties and responsibilities shall include but not be limited to, the
19 following:

20 (1) fulfilling the requirements of a state commission or alternative administrative
21 entity as defined and outlined by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993;

22 (2) coordinating the advice of and providing counsel to other state agencies and
23 organizations using community service and volunteerism as a strategy to assist in the solution of
24 local, regional, and statewide problems;

25 (3) initiating and carrying out studies and analyses of proposed and implemented
26 service and volunteer programs, which will aid in the solving of local, regional, and statewide
27 issues.

28 (4) serving as an advocate for the needs of volunteers;

29 (5) adopting regulations to expand corps opportunities to address all community
30 needs, such as education, environment, public safety, public health, and employment and
31 training;

32 (6) acting as a clearinghouse for information, data, and other materials relative to
33 community service and volunteer opportunities;

34 (7) ensuring the coordination of community service and volunteer corps operating
35 in the commonwealth;

36 (8) encouraging the corporate community of the commonwealth to become an
37 active partner in the support, advocacy and promotion of community service and volunteer
38 opportunities in the commonwealth;

39 (9) requiring the assistance and participation of any department, division, bureau,
40 commission or agency of the commonwealth in order to carry out its duties;

41 (10) advising and informing the general court and governor on the affairs and
42 problems of community service and volunteer opportunities in the commonwealth; and

43 (11) developing outcome guidelines for accreditation of State Employees
44 Responding as Volunteers program, higher education service sites and other programs as deemed
45 necessary.

46 (12) developing mechanisms to encourage, promote and support programs that
47 offer community service and volunteer opportunities in the commonwealth for volunteers who
48 are 55 years of age or older.

49 Section 4. All state agencies shall cooperate with the MSA in carrying out its duties.

50 Section 5.(a) The MSA shall appoint a community service-learning advisory council
51 consisting of not less than 10 nor more than 30 members. These persons shall represent a wide

52 range of professions and institutions involved in education and community service, which will
53 include, but not be limited to teachers, superintendents, counselors, students, school board
54 members, independent agencies, business community, a Massachusetts Service Alliance
55 member, a Massachusetts Campus Compact member, union representative and program
56 coordinators. The MSA member or designee shall chair the advisory council.

57 (b). The advisory council shall assist the MSA, commissioner of education and the
58 public higher education institutions in the development of a statewide initiative to integrate the
59 philosophy and practice of community service-learning into the public schools, colleges and
60 universities. These guidelines shall be directly linked to the Education Reform Act pursuant to
61 chapter 71 of the acts of 1993. The council shall develop guidelines and criteria for
62 disseminating grants to districts through a competitive process and the establishment of
63 professional development opportunities for teachers, students, and community partners. The
64 council shall develop a plan to require all districts to integrate community service-learning into
65 curricula and teaching practices over a five-year period, beginning on January, 1, 2010.

66 SECTION 2. Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition,
67 is hereby amended by inserting after section 31E the following section:-

68 Section 31F. The state employees voluntary program pursuant to section 31E shall be
69 expanded to address additional community needs, such as environmental, educational, health and
70 public safety issues throughout the commonwealth, through volunteer opportunities at accredited
71 non-profit organizations. The program shall be part of an aggressive advertising campaign
72 targeting, but not limited to, public employees and public institutions.

73 SECTION 3. Chapter 69 of the General Laws as so appearing is hereby amended by
74 inserting after section 10A, the following 6 sections:-

75 Section 10B. As used in this section and in sections 10C to 10G, inclusive, the following
76 words, unless the context requires otherwise, shall have the following meanings:

77 "Community", a family, classroom, school, neighborhood, town or world as basis for
78 community service-learning.

79 "Community service-learning", a pedagogical approach to learning and a methodology
80 for teaching, incorporating the study of local community problems and larger social issues into
81 the classroom curriculum, using real world scenarios as the basis for learning curricular content
82 and developing skills including, but not limited to critical and creative thinking skills, problem
83 solving, reasoning, communication and collaboration skills, hereinafter referred to as the
84 Common Core of Learning. Community service-learning enables students to be active,
85 contributing members of society;

86 "Commissioner", the commissioner of education.

87 "Department", the department of education.

88 "Board", the board of education.

89 Section 10C. Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, the
90 commissioner, in coordination with the Massachusetts Service Alliance, shall establish a
91 curriculum based community service-learning initiative in all public schools.

92 Section 10D. (a) The purpose of this program shall be to ensure each school in the
93 commonwealth provides opportunities for each student enrolled in the Massachusetts public
94 schools to participate in community service-learning as a part of their regular academic courses,
95 including but not limited to, mathematics, science, English language arts, history and social
96 studies, art, health and world languages and other courses designed to address the student
97 learning goals and standards outlined in the Education Reform Act pursuant to chapter 71 of the
98 acts of 1993 and to increase the number of teachers using community service-learning.

99 (b) This program shall provide schools with targeted professional development,
100 resources and grant awards to systematically integrate community service-learning into academic
101 courses of study and to encourage schools and school districts to incorporate community service-
102 learning into school-wide goals and school improvement plans pursuant to section 59C of
103 chapter 71 of the General Laws. The program will require that schools use community service-
104 learning as a strategy for implementing education reform and to make important structural and
105 organizational changes that support improved student learning and teacher professionalism.

106 Section 10E. The commissioner, with the advisory council, shall have the responsibility
107 and authority to:

108 (1) ensure each school in the commonwealth provides opportunities for students
109 to participate in community service-learning as a part of their regular academic courses including
110 but not limited to mathematics, science, English language arts, history and social studies, art,
111 health and world languages and other courses designed to address the student learning goals and
112 standards outlined in the Education Reform Act pursuant to chapter 71 of the acts of 1993;

113 (2) ensure that each student enrolled in the Massachusetts public school system
114 participates in community service-learning at least once at each grade level;

115 (3) each community service-learning experience will consist of the following
116 standards: (i) ensure that students understand how the needs of the community are identified or,
117 when appropriate, will identify the needs of the community; (ii) ensure that students develop,
118 acquire and demonstrate curricular knowledge and skills through participation in an integrated
119 community service-learning experience; (iii) ensure that students acquire a developmentally
120 appropriate understanding of the relationship between school, community and the importance of
121 school-community partnerships; and (iv) ensure that students and teachers will work in

122 collaboration with individuals and organizations in the community when appropriate in order to
123 develop and implement meaningful community service-learning experiences that reflect their
124 understanding of school and community relationships;

125 (4) ensure that integration of community service-learning into academic curricula
126 and teaching practices will be aligned with the K-12 curriculum frameworks and learning
127 standards for the commonwealth and will be developed as per guidelines developed by the
128 advisory council and adopted by the department;

129 (5) ensure that each school incorporates the process it will use to include
130 community service-learning into its curricula and teaching practices school-wide into its school
131 improvement development plan pursuant to section 59C of chapter 71 of the General Laws and
132 its school professional development plan, developed pursuant to section 38Q of said chapter 71;

133 (6) ensure that each school annually submits data, as determined by the advisory
134 council, to the department verifying that community service-learning is being integrated into
135 academic curricula and that each student is participating in community service-learning at least
136 once at each grade level; and

137 (7) ensure each school develops community service-learning curricula that
138 incorporate both the developmental needs of the students and the unmet needs of communities.

139 Section 10F. The department shall, with the advisory council:

140 (1) determine criteria for the successful integration of community service-learning
141 into academic curricula and teaching practices, provide technical assistance and training as
142 needed, and assess the progress of participating schools annually;

143 (2) include one open-ended question on each state assessment test which will
144 assess the learning outcomes of community service-learning;

145 (3) develop a statewide community service-learning initiative and plan for
146 integrating community service-learning into school curricula and teaching practices over a five
147 year period and ensure that this plan is integrated into the Massachusetts Service Alliance's
148 Massachusetts plan for service. All school schools shall begin to implement their individual five-
149 year plans by September, 1, 2014;

150 (4) develop a staffing structure and appoint staff at the department's office of
151 curriculum and instruction to coordinate all aspects of this statewide initiative;

152 (5) deliver reports on the initiative to the Massachusetts Service Alliance as
153 appropriate, as well as publicize the exceptional examples of community service in various
154 schools.

155 Section 10G. School committees may include participation in a community service
156 program among requirements for high school graduation, or may grant academic credit for the
157 participation in the program.

158 SECTION 4. Section 2 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
159 amended by adding the following 2 paragraphs:-

160 The commissioner shall establish guidelines for promoting community service-
161 learning as a means of fulfilling the state's civic education requirements. For the purpose of this
162 section, the curriculum for civic education shall include, but not be limited to, such forms of
163 community service-learning that promotes an identification of community needs, investigation,
164 analysis, and research into those needs, and development and defense of a solution, as may be
165 directed by the department of education.

166 The department of education shall file annually with the Massachusetts Service Alliance
167 on January first a report regarding civic education requirements. The community service-learning
168 advisory council shall develop guidelines to determine what pertinent data shall be included in
169 the report.

170 SECTION 5. Section 2A of chapter 73 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
171 amended by adding the following paragraph:-

172 Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, the community
173 service-learning advisory council with the public higher education institutions shall establish
174 guidelines for promoting community service-learning as a means of fulfilling the state's civic
175 education program. For the purpose of this section, the curriculum for civic education shall
176 include, but not be limited to, such forms of community service-learning that promotes an
177 identification of community needs, investigation, analysis, and research into those needs, and
178 development and defense of a solution. Guidelines established by the community service-
179 learning advisory council with the public higher education institutions may include deadlines for
180 the implementation of the program, criteria for the program, hours necessary for the program,
181 and regional needs. The public higher education institutions shall file annually with the
182 Massachusetts Service Alliance on or before January 1 a report regarding civic education
183 programs. The community service-learning advisory council shall develop guidelines to
184 determine what pertinent data shall be included in the report, which shall include, but not be
185 limited to the performance measures set forth in section 7A of chapter 15A of the General Laws.

186 SECTION 6. Said chapter 73 is hereby amended by inserting after said section 2A, as so
187 appearing, the following 2 sections:-

188 Section 2B. As used in this chapter the following words, unless the context requires
189 otherwise, shall have the following meanings:

190 “Massachusetts campus compact”, is a membership organization of college and
191 university presidents leading Massachusetts institutions of higher education in building a
192 statewide collaboration to promote service as a critical component of higher education.

193 "Massachusetts Service Alliance", the organization created in chapter 6B, referred to in
194 this chapter as the MSA.

195 "Council", the community service-learning advisory council.

196 ”Public Higher Education Institutions”, the institutions cited in section 5 of chapter 15A
197 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

198 "Commonwealth student corps", a statewide program to coordinate the activity of
199 students and others in activities, services and resources relative to the environment, education,
200 public health and public safety that support or provide primary service to underserved
201 populations and geographical areas in the commonwealth. The commonwealth student corps
202 shall consist of, but not be limited to, the student education corps, the student conservation corps,
203 the student health corps and the student public safety corps.

204 "Commissioner", the commissioner of the department of education.

205 "Unmet community needs", underserved populations and geographical areas in the
206 commonwealth.

207 Section 2C. (a) The public higher education institutions, with the council, shall establish
208 the commonwealth student corps to expand opportunities for students of environmental
209 professions, student of educational professions, students of public health professions, students of
210 public safety professions, educators, practitioners, and active and retired certified professionals
211 to participate in public service programs that help meet critical community needs. The public
212 higher education institutions shall work in cooperation with the MSA and develop a program to
213 expand and coordinate public and private resources that promote community service by
214 connecting supervised students with professionals in service programs opportunities that are
215 consistent with students’ respective area of study

216 (b) The public higher education institutions shall conduct, with the council, landscape
217 surveys that document the current status and successes of community-service learning
218 opportunities and programs at all Massachusetts public higher education institutions.

219 (c) The public higher education institutions shall establish, as part of the commonwealth
220 student corps, a curriculum based community service program.

221 (d) The public higher education institutions may work in cooperation with the MSA to
222 offer the opportunity for students to be matched with accredited service sites. The MSA shall
223 develop criteria for the accreditation of the service sites.

224 (e) The purpose and goals of the curriculum based community service-learning program
225 is to: (1) increase opportunities for students throughout Massachusetts to participate in real world
226 applied learning through curriculum based service activities; (2) help address the state's
227 community needs; (3) strengthen communities through service; and (4) enhance the ethic of
228 service.

229 (f) Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, the public
230 higher education institutions, with the council, shall have the responsibility and authority to:

231 (1) conduct studies and accredited projects;

232 (2) apply to private sources and federal government for grants to implement
233 studies and accredited service projects; deposit funds and received from those sources in a
234 separate account at the department of each state college or university; and expend such funds for
235 the purpose set forth in this section;

236 (3) enter into agreements with each other and other entities as allowed by law for
237 the purposes of implementing this chapter;

238 (4) study the feasibility of utilizing the services of retired professionals and other
239 licensed and certified professionals;

240 (5) deliver reports of the program to the governor and the general court as
241 appropriate;

242 (6) implement statewide commonwealth student corps programs designed to
243 achieve the comprehensive and coordinated delivery of services to underserved populations and
244 geographical areas; and

245 (7) appoint a program director to implement and administer the studies and
246 accredited service projects initiated by this chapter.

247 (g) The following shall be the deadlines for the implementation of the program:

248 Phase I- The public higher education institutions, with the council, shall
249 develop and implement a curriculum based community service program for students
250 participating in the academic areas of education, the environment, public health, and public
251 safety on or before August 1, 2015;

252 Phase II- The public higher education institutions, with the council, shall
253 develop and implement a curriculum based community service program institution-wide on or
254 before August 1, 2017."

255 SECTION 7. Chapter 73 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by adding the
256 following sections:-

257 Section 21. Subject to a specific appropriation for this purpose, the board of higher
258 education shall establish a student loan repayment program, to be known as the Massachusetts
259 community service and volunteer loan repayment program, for the purposes of encouraging
260 outstanding students to participate and foster community service and volunteer opportunities
261 within the commonwealth by providing financial assistance for the repayment of qualified
262 education loans, as defined herein.

263 Section 22. Subject to a specific appropriation for this purpose, the board of higher
264 education shall establish a scholarship program, to be known as Massachusetts community
265 service and volunteer scholarship program, to provide students in approved Massachusetts
266 colleges and universities with scholarships for tuition and fees for the purpose of encouraging
267 outstanding Massachusetts' students to participate and foster community service and volunteer
268 opportunities within the commonwealth.

269 Section 23. Subject to a specific appropriation for this purpose, the board of higher
270 education shall establish a housing voucher program to be known as the Massachusetts
271 community service and volunteer housing voucher program, to provide students in approved
272 Massachusetts colleges and universities with housing vouchers for the purpose of encouraging
273 outstanding Massachusetts' students to participate and foster community service and volunteer
274 opportunities within the commonwealth. The housing voucher, in the form and manner as the
275 board determines, may be utilized by the recipient to assist in paying housing costs, including
276 rent or mortgage payments, while the recipient is enrolled in good standing in the college or
277 university. A student shall not participate in more than one of the programs established under
278 sections 21 to 23, inclusive.

279 Section 24. The public higher education institutions with the advisory council shall
280 establish a student community service and volunteer award, to be known as the Massachusetts
281 student community service and volunteer award, to provide students in approved Massachusetts
282 colleges and universities with the honor of receiving this award for the purpose of encouraging
283 outstanding Massachusetts' students to participate and foster community service and volunteer
284 opportunities within the commonwealth.

285 Section 25. The MSA may adopt regulations necessary to implement the Massachusetts
286 community service and volunteer loan repayment program.

287 SECTION 8. A member of the commonwealth student corps shall not be considered an
288 employee of the commonwealth entitled to benefits such as worker's compensation or
289 unemployment benefits, nor shall a member be considered to be an employee of the
290 commonwealth. A municipality shall not be held liable for any claim arising out of a community
291 service program. Service opportunities shall not replace existing state employees.

292 SECTION 9. The commissioner of education and the public higher education institutions
293 shall each file annually with the community service-learning advisory council established under

294 chapter 6B of the General Laws on or before January 1, a report of schools participating in
295 community service-learning activities, the commonwealth corps activities, and other the progress
296 of other community service and volunteer programs, as well as other pertinent service data as
297 determined by the advisory council. The Massachusetts Service Alliance shall compile the
298 reports and additional service data and report annually to the clerk of the senate and house of
299 representatives on or before September 1 in order to foster communication among local, state
300 and federally funded programs engaged in community service and volunteer opportunities. Said
301 report shall include, but not be limited to:

- 302 (1) a financial statement summarizing its expenditures and available funds;
- 303 (2) the number of projects and proposed corps placements submitted to it;
- 304 (3) the number of volunteers generated;
- 305 (4) a description of approved projects and a summary of the work completed.

306 SECTION 10. Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary,
307 the public higher education institutions participation in community service learning activities, the
308 commonwealth corps activities, and any other community service and volunteer programs, shall
309 be included as one of the performance measures within the performance measurement systems
310 established pursuant to the provisions of section 7A of chapter 15A of the General Laws.

311 SECTION 11. This act shall take effect January 1, 2015.