

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2212

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen  
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SENATE, June 19, 2014

Report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the House amendments to the Senate Bill to foster economic independence (Senate, No. 1806) (amended by the House by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of House document numbered 3756),-- reports, in part, a “Bill to foster economic independence.” (Senate, No. 2212).

For the Committee:

Jennifer L. Flanagan

Michael J. Barrett

Brian S. Dempsey

Kay Khan

Kimberly N. Ferguson

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2212**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen**  
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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 supplementing certain items in the general appropriation act  
2 and other appropriation acts for fiscal year 2015 for the purpose of funding improvements to the  
3 department of transitional assistance in the commonwealth, the sums set forth in section 2 are  
4 hereby appropriated from the General Fund unless specifically designated otherwise in this act or  
5 in those other appropriation acts, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified  
6 in this act or in those other appropriation acts and subject to laws regulating the disbursement of  
7 public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The sums appropriated in this act shall be  
8 in addition to any amounts previously appropriated and made available for these purposes.

9           SECTION 2.

10                           OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES.

11   *Department of Transitional Assistance.*

12   4403-2119.....\$500,000

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

*Department of Higher Education.*

7070-0066.....\$1,000,000

SECTION 2A. To provide for certain unanticipated obligations of the commonwealth, to provide for an alteration of purpose for current appropriations, and to meet certain requirements of law, the sums set forth in this section are hereby appropriated from the General Fund unless specifically designated otherwise, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this section, and subject to laws regulating the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The sums shall be in addition to any amounts previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of these items.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

*Department of Transitional Assistance.*

4400-1100 For the specialists positions required under section 5 of chapter 18 of the General Laws.....\$2,910,000

4400-1979 For the department of transitional assistance to administer, in consultation with the Commonwealth Corporation, an employment counseling and job training program established under section 3B and the pathways to self-sufficiency program established under section 3C of chapter 118 of the General Laws and for the full employment program established under subsection (1) of section 110 of chapter 5 of the acts of 1995 .....\$11,000,000

4401-1000 For an independent consultant to review the effectiveness of the commonwealth’s specific employment and training service programs, which are provided for under this item, in providing a pathway to financial independence; provided, that not less than \$200,000 shall be used; provided, further, that this review shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the employment outcomes for clients in the commonwealth, an analysis of each program according to a common set of metrics, interviews with staff from the department and programs, interviews with program clients, interviews with employers and recommendations for specific changes and improvements to the employment and training services provided by the

40 commonwealth; and provided further, that a copy of the consultant’s report shall be filed with the  
41 clerks of the senate and house of representatives.....\$300,000

42 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in fiscal year  
43 2015, the department of higher education shall expend not less than \$1,500,000 for the high  
44 demand scholarship program for students from the commonwealth who are enrolled in and  
45 pursuing a program of higher education in the University of Massachusetts, state universities and  
46 community colleges designated by the board of higher education to be a training program for an  
47 in-demand profession as defined by the executive office of labor and workforce development’s  
48 study on labor market conditions pursuant to item 7070-0066 of section 2 of chapter 38 of the  
49 acts of 2013.

50 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, funds from the  
51 MassHealth premium assistance and insurance partnership in line item 4000-0890 shall be used  
52 in fiscal year 2015 to provide insurance reimbursement to employers participating in full  
53 employment program established under section 110 of chapter 5 of the acts of 1995.