

SENATE No. 2449

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)
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SENATE, Thursday, April 19, 2018

The committee on Labor and Workforce Development, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1038) of Marc R. Pacheco and Michael D. Brady for legislation to establish the Massachusetts Service Alliance,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2449).

For the committee,
Jason M. Lewis

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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 court finds: that the commonwealth has a strong history of
2 community service, community service-learning, and volunteerism, with a vast array of
3 programs that successfully mobilize volunteers and encourage students to be active members of
4 their communities; that every day thousands of people across the commonwealth generously give
5 their time to educate students, assist the elderly, protect our city streets and address other critical
6 community needs; that the increasing demand for services, and limited financial resources of the
7 commonwealth, have contributed to the need to call up the energy, compassion, inventiveness,
8 and the entrepreneurial spirit of all citizens to help solve many of the problems facing their
9 communities; that research shows community service-learning helps meet the goal of education
10 reform by improving student learning, enhancing student performance, and promoting the ethic
11 of service; that the entire state benefits from building upon the experience, expertise and
12 successes of the higher education service community to create the system-wide commonwealth
13 student corps; and that it is in the commonwealth's best interest to promote reforms that will
14 better coordinate volunteers, engage students in their communities, utilize funds, foster

15 communication among organizations, identify the needs of the state and replicate successful
16 models; and, that the purpose of these reforms is to make the commonwealth a national leader
17 for community service, community service-learning, and volunteerism.

18 SECTION 2. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 6D the
19 following chapter:-

20 CHAPTER 6E. MASSACHUSETTS SERVICE ALLIANCE COMMISSION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

57 (11) developing outcome guidelines for accreditation of State Employees Responding as
58 Volunteers program, higher education service sites and other programs as deemed necessary; and

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

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

63 Section 5. (a) The MSA shall appoint a community service-learning advisory council
64 consisting of not less than 10 nor more than 30 members. These persons shall represent a wide
65 range of professions and institutions involved in education and community service, which will
66 include, but not be limited to teachers, superintendents, counselors, students, school board
67 members, independent agencies, business community, a Massachusetts Service Alliance
68 member, a Massachusetts Campus Compact member, union representative and program
69 coordinators. The MSA member or designee shall chair the advisory council.

70 (b) The advisory council shall assist the MSA, commissioner of education and the public
71 higher education institutions in the development of a statewide initiative to integrate the
72 philosophy and practice of community service-learning into the public schools, colleges and
73 universities. These guidelines shall be directly linked to the Education Reform Act pursuant to
74 chapter 71 of the acts of 1993. The council shall develop guidelines and criteria for
75 disseminating grants to districts through a competitive process and the establishment of
76 professional development opportunities for teachers, students, and community partners. The

77 council shall develop a plan to require all districts to integrate community service-learning into
78 curricula and teaching practices over a five-year period, beginning on January, 1, 2019.

79 SECTION 3. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
80 section 31E, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, the following section:-

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

86 SECTION 4. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
87 section 10A, as so appearing, the following 6 sections:-

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

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

92 "Community service-learning", a pedagogical approach to learning and a methodology
93 for teaching, incorporating the study of local community problems and larger social issues into
94 the classroom curriculum, using real world scenarios as the basis for learning curricular content
95 and developing skills including, but not limited to critical and creative thinking skills, problem
96 solving, reasoning, communication and collaboration skills, hereinafter referred to as the

97 Common Core of Learning. Community service-learning enables students to be active,
98 contributing members of society;

99 "Commissioner", the commissioner of education.

100 "Department", the department of education.

101 "Board", the board of education.

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

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

112 (b) This program shall provide schools with targeted professional development, resources
113 and grant awards to systematically integrate community service-learning into academic courses
114 of study and to encourage schools and school districts to incorporate community service-learning
115 into school-wide goals and school improvement plans pursuant to section 59C of chapter 71 of
116 the General Laws. The program will require that schools use community service-learning as a

117 strategy for implementing education reform and to make important structural and organizational
118 changes that support improved student learning and teacher professionalism.

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

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

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

128 (3) each community service-learning experience will consist of the following standards:

129 (i) ensure that students understand how the needs of the community are identified or, when
130 appropriate, will identify the needs of the community; (ii) ensure that students develop, acquire
131 and demonstrate curricular knowledge and skills through participation in an integrated
132 community service-learning experience; (iii) ensure that students acquire a developmentally
133 appropriate understanding of the relationship between school, community and the importance of
134 school-community partnerships; and (iv) ensure that students and teachers will work in
135 collaboration with individuals and organizations in the community when appropriate in order to
136 develop and implement meaningful community service-learning experiences that reflect their
137 understanding of school and community relationships;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

158 (3) develop a statewide community service-learning initiative and plan for integrating
159 community service-learning into school curricula and teaching practices over a five year period
160 and ensure that this plan is integrated into the Massachusetts Service Alliance's Massachusetts
161 plan for service. All school schools shall begin to implement their individual five-year plans by
162 September, 1, 2019;

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

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

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

170 SECTION 5. Section 2 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
171 amended by adding the following 2 paragraphs:-

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

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

182 SECTION 6. Section 2A of chapter 73 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
183 amended by adding the following paragraph:-

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

198 SECTION 7. Said chapter 73 is hereby amended by inserting after said section 2A, as so
199 appearing, the following 2 sections:-

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

202 "Massachusetts campus compact", is a membership organization of college and
203 university presidents leading Massachusetts institutions of higher education in building a
204 statewide collaboration to promote service as a critical component of higher education.

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

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

208 "Public Higher Education Institutions", the institutions cited in section 5 of chapter 15A
209 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

210 "Commonwealth student corps", a statewide program to coordinate the activity of
211 students and others in activities, services and resources relative to the environment, education,
212 public health and public safety that support or provide primary service to underserved
213 populations and geographical areas in the commonwealth. The commonwealth student corps
214 shall consist of, but not be limited to, the student education corps, the student conservation corps,
215 the student health corps and the student public safety corps.

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

217 "Unmet community needs", underserved populations and geographical areas in the
218 commonwealth.

219 Section 2C. (a) The public higher education institutions, with the council, shall establish
220 the commonwealth student corps to expand opportunities for students of environmental

221 professions, student of educational professions, students of public health professions, students of
222 public safety professions, educators, practitioners, and active and retired certified professionals
223 to participate in public service programs that help meet critical community needs. The public
224 higher education institutions shall work in cooperation with the MSA and develop a program to
225 expand and coordinate public and private resources that promote community service by
226 connecting supervised students with professionals in service programs opportunities that are
227 consistent with students' respective area of study

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

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

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

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

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

243 (1) conduct studies and accredited projects;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

259 Phase I- The public higher education institutions, with the council, shall develop and
260 implement a curriculum based community service program for students participating in the
261 academic areas of education, the environment, public health, and public safety on or before
262 August 1, 2019;

263 Phase II- The public higher education institutions, with the council, shall develop and
264 implement a curriculum based community service program institution-wide on or before August
265 1, 2023."

266 SECTION 8. Said chapter 73 is hereby further amended by adding the following 7
267 sections:-

268 Section 21. The MSA may adopt regulations necessary to implement this program.

269 Section 22. Subject to a specific appropriation for this purpose, the board of higher
270 education shall establish a student loan repayment program, to be known as the Massachusetts
271 community service and volunteer loan repayment program, for the purposes of encouraging
272 outstanding students to participate and foster community service and volunteer opportunities
273 within the commonwealth by providing financial assistance for the repayment of qualified
274 education loans, as defined herein.

275 Section 23. Subject to a specific appropriation for this purpose, the board of higher
276 education shall establish a scholarship program, to be known as Massachusetts community
277 service and volunteer scholarship program, to provide students in approved Massachusetts
278 colleges and universities with scholarships for tuition and fees for the purpose of encouraging
279 outstanding Massachusetts' students to participate and foster community service and volunteer
280 opportunities within the commonwealth.

281 Section 24. Subject to a specific appropriation for this purpose, the board of higher
282 education shall establish a housing voucher program to be known as the Massachusetts
283 community service and volunteer housing voucher program, to provide students in approved
284 Massachusetts colleges and universities with housing vouchers for the purpose of encouraging

285 outstanding Massachusetts' students to participate and foster community service and volunteer
286 opportunities within the commonwealth. The housing voucher, in the form and manner as the
287 board determines, may be utilized by the recipient to assist in paying housing costs, including
288 rent or mortgage payments, while the recipient is enrolled in good standing in the college or
289 university. A student shall not participate in more than one of the programs established under
290 sections 22 to 24, inclusive.

291 Section 25. The public higher education institutions with the advisory council shall
292 establish a student community service and volunteer award, to be known as the Massachusetts
293 student community service and volunteer award, to provide students in approved Massachusetts
294 colleges and universities with the honor of receiving this award for the purpose of encouraging
295 outstanding Massachusetts' students to participate and foster community service and volunteer
296 opportunities within the commonwealth.

297 SECTION 9. A member of the commonwealth student corps shall not be considered an
298 employee of the commonwealth entitled to benefits such as worker's compensation or
299 unemployment benefits, nor shall a member be considered to be an employee of the
300 commonwealth. A municipality shall not be held liable for any claim arising out of a community
301 service program. Service opportunities shall not replace existing state employees.

302 SECTION 10. The commissioner of education and the public higher education
303 institutions shall each file annually with the community service-learning advisory council
304 established under chapter 6B of the General Laws on or before January 1, a report of schools
305 participating in community service-learning activities, the commonwealth corps activities, and
306 other the progress of other community service and volunteer programs, as well as other pertinent

307 service data as determined by the advisory council. The Massachusetts Service Alliance shall
308 compile the reports and additional service data and report annually to the clerk of the senate and
309 house of representatives on or before September 1 in order to foster communication among local,
310 state and federally funded programs engaged in community service and volunteer opportunities.

311 Said report shall include, but not be limited to:

312 (1) a financial statement summarizing its expenditures and available funds;

313 (2) the number of projects and proposed corps placements submitted to it;

314 (3) the number of volunteers generated;

315 (4) a description of approved projects and a summary of the work completed.

316 SECTION 11. Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary,
317 the public higher education institutions participation in community service learning activities, the
318 commonwealth corps activities, and any other community service and volunteer programs, shall
319 be included as one of the performance measures within the performance measurement systems
320 established pursuant to the provisions of section 7A of chapter 15A of the General Laws.

321 SECTION 12. This act shall take effect January 1, 2019.