

SENATE No. 2665

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

SENATE, April 1, 2024.

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 327) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Deborah B. Goldberg, Treasurer and Receiver General for legislation to require financial education in schools; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 328) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Ryan C. Fattman for legislation relative to student financial literacy; (accompanied by bill, House, No. 473) of Peter J. Durant and others relative to establishing a personal financial literacy curriculum in schools; and (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Ryan M. Hamilton, Carmine Lawrence Gentile and Sally P. Kerans relative to personal financial literacy in schools, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2665).

For the committee,
Jason M. Lewis

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An Act relative to student financial literacy.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 2AAAAAA the following section:-

3 Section 2BBBBBB. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the
4 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Financial Literacy Trust Fund. The fund shall
5 be administered by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education. The fund shall be
6 credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court
7 and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) interest earned on such revenues; and
8 (iii) funds from public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations to further financial
9 education and professional development; and (iii) for the collaboration with institutions of higher
10 education and other stakeholder organizations. Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject
11 to further appropriation and any money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not
12 revert to the General Fund.

13 (b) Amounts credited to the fund may be expended without further appropriation by the
14 commissioner, for purposes related to the instruction of middle and high school students on
15 financial literacy, including, but not limited to: (i) development of curricular materials for the
16 financial literacy framework; (ii) professional development training, including the provision of
17 training, seminars, conferences, and materials, for educators to use in the teaching of financial
18 literacy. In expending amounts credited to the fund, the commissioner shall prioritize: (i)
19 underserved communities across the commonwealth, including those public schools or school
20 districts with high concentrations of economically-disadvantaged students; and (ii) schools
21 implementing a financial literacy education program for the first time consistent with the
22 standards set by the department of elementary and secondary education.

23 (c) Amounts received from private sources shall be approved by the commissioner of
24 elementary and secondary education and subject to review before being deposited in the fund to
25 ensure that pledged funds are not accompanied by conditions, explicit or implicit, on the
26 implementation of financial literacy education programming that may be detrimental to the
27 neutral and rigorous teaching of financial literacy or that may unduly influence the direction of
28 financial literacy education policy. The review shall be made publicly available on the
29 department's website.

30 (d) Annually, not later than October 1, the commissioner shall report to the clerks of the
31 house of representatives and senate, the joint committee on education and the house and senate
32 committees on ways and means on the fund's activity. The report shall include, but not be limited
33 to: (i) the source and amount of funds received; (ii) the amounts distributed and the purpose of
34 expenditures from the fund, including but not limited to, funds expended to assist school districts
35 in implementing financial literacy (iii) any grants provided to institutions of higher education and

36 other stakeholder organizations; (iv) anticipated revenue and expenditure projections for the next
37 year; (v) the number of schools and school districts that have used the fund to implement a new
38 program or enhance or maintain current programming; and (vi) the number of schools and school
39 districts that applied for, but were not granted, funding. The report shall be publicly available on
40 the department's website.

41 SECTION 2. Section 1R of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
42 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (a) and inserting in place thereof
43 the following subsection:-

44 (a) Financial literacy standards established pursuant to section 1D shall promote an
45 understanding of personal finances including, but not limited to: (i) loans; (ii) interest and
46 interest accrual; (iii) using credit and making investments, risks of various financial instruments
47 and basic diversification of assets; (iv) online commerce; (v) rights and responsibilities of renting
48 or buying a home or making other large purchases or investments; (vi) saving, investing and
49 planning for retirement; (vii) the role of banking and financial services; (viii) balancing ledgers
50 and checkbooks; (ix) state and federal taxes; (x) charitable giving; (xi) evaluating media content,
51 including online content, that relates to personal finance matters; (xii) saving, investing and
52 planning for higher education or professional training (xiii) earning and spending income,
53 methods of payment, consumer protection, and budgeting; (xiv) protecting and insuring assets,
54 preventing identity theft and avoiding online scams; and (xv) emerging technologies in the
55 financial industry, a basic understanding of cryptocurrencies, online commerce and computer
56 stock-trading, how to evaluate digital media content relating personal finance matters and how to
57 recognize risk.

58 SECTION 3. Said section 1R of said chapter 69 of said general laws is hereby further
59 amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

60 (d) The department shall utilize funding from the Financial Literacy Trust Fund and may
61 apply for federal, state or other funding, including funding available through the Economic
62 Empowerment Trust Fund established pursuant to section 35QQ of chapter 10 to implement the
63 provisions of this section.