

SENATE No. 2724

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

SENATE, March 3, 2022.

The committee on Labor and Workforce Development, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1227) of Joan B. Lovely for legislation to create a special legislative commission to study barriers to job retention for low-income workers; and (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2012) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Michelle L. Ciccolo for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to conduct a study and make recommendations on the barriers faced by low-income workers to finding and maintaining jobs in the Commonwealth, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2724).

For the committee,
Patricia D. Jehlen

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(2021-2022)**

An Act creating a special legislative commission to study barriers to job retention for low-income workers.

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

1 (a) Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there shall be a special
2 commission established to conduct a study and make recommendations on the barriers faced by
3 low-income workers to finding and maintaining jobs in the Commonwealth. The commission
4 shall consist of 18 members, as follows: the house and senate chairs of the committee on labor
5 and workforce development, who shall serve as co-chairs; the secretary of labor and workforce
6 development or the secretary’s designee; the secretary of transportation or the secretary’s
7 designee; the secretary of housing and economic development or the secretary’s designee; the
8 secretary of the department of transitional assistance or the secretary’s designee; the secretary of
9 the department of health and human services or the secretary’s designee; 1 of whom shall be a
10 member of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 of whom
11 shall be member of the senate to be appointed by the senate president; 1 of whom shall be
12 appointed by Ascentria Care Alliance; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Job Training
13 Alliance; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Massachusetts Retail Association; 1 of whom

14 shall be appointed by Associated Industries of Massachusetts; 1 of whom shall be appointed by
15 the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network; 1 of whom shall be appointed by EmPath; 1 of whom
16 shall be appointed by the Massachusetts Business Roundtable; 1 of whom shall be appointed by
17 the Massachusetts Workforce Board Association; and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the
18 Commonwealth Corporation.

19 (b) The commission shall examine and make recommendations on topics including, but
20 not limited to: barriers that exist in Massachusetts that prevent low-income workers from finding
21 and retaining jobs with sustainable wages; strategies that the Commonwealth could employ that
22 would help to address barriers to job retention for low-income workers; Massachusetts laws and
23 regulations that are currently in place, or could be put in place, that assist or hamper this
24 population from maintaining jobs with a sustainable wage; and holistic and wraparound service
25 approaches and programs that the Commonwealth could explore to prevent a fragmented and
26 inefficient response to addressing these barriers.

27 (c) The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the public
28 to gather information. The commission and its working groups are encouraged to involve other
29 experts, stakeholders and members of the public in its work through listening and working group
30 sessions or whatever other mechanisms the commission chooses.

31 (d) The commission shall file its recommendations, including any drafts of legislation or
32 regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the clerks of the house of
33 representatives and senate, the joint committee on public health and the joint committee on
34 health care financing not later than July 1, 2024.