

SENATE No. 348

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Eric P. Lesser

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to expand the capacity of career technical schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>John Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/1/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/4/2021</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>3/16/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>

Adam J. Scanlon

14th Bristol

3/25/2021

James M. Kelcourse

1st Essex

3/25/2021

SENATE No. 348

By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 348) of Eric P. Lesser, Anne M. Gobi, Jack Patrick Lewis, John Cronin and other members of the General Court for legislation to expand the capacity of career technical schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to expand the capacity of career technical schools.

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 create a new capital infrastructure and investment tool within the
2 Massachusetts School Building Authority, established under section 1A of chapter 70, to provide
3 for a program of capital investments for career and technical education programs and career and
4 technical education regional schools, as defined in Chapter 74 of the General Laws, for
5 investment in equitable access to public education and industry-relevant workforce and
6 economic development infrastructure; to support greater access to career and technical education
7 programs and career and technical education regional schools as defined in Chapter 74; to fund
8 replacement and renovation of school infrastructure to meet workforce demands of regional
9 employers and increase equitable access for all students applying to Chapter 74 programs and
10 schools; and to support the purchase of critical training equipment for the purposes of teaching
11 and learning, the sums set forth in this section, for the purposes and subject to the conditions
12 specified in this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the disbursement
13 of public funds, which sums shall be in addition to any other amounts previously appropriated

14 for these purposes; provided, that the amounts specified for a particular project may be adjusted
15 in order to facilitate projects authorized in this act.

16 For costs associated with initiatives, projects and expenditures to replace or make
17 improvements to the quality, consistency, efficiency and delivery of any Chapter 74 program or
18 regional school for the benefit of the public school students in Chapter 74 programs and regional
19 school districts and their preparation for post secondary and career
20 opportunities..... \$3,000,000,000

21 SECTION 2. Section 21C of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
22 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after subsection (n) the following new
23 subsection:-

24 (o) The local appropriating authority may, by accepting this paragraph, provide that taxes
25 may thereafter be assessed in excess of the amount otherwise allowed by this section, solely for
26 payment, in whole or in part, of Regional Vocational school debt service charges that the school
27 board responsible for determining the debt service charges certifies were not in fiscal year two
28 thousand and twenty paid by local taxes.

29 SECTION 3. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
30 following four sections:-

31 Section 37. For the purposes of sections 38 through 42, inclusive, the following terms
32 shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

33 “Career technical education” or “CTE”, shall have the same meaning as vocational-
34 technical education as defined in section 1 of chapter 74.

35 “Office”, the office of career technical education.

36 Section 38. There shall be established within the department of elementary and
37 secondary education an office of career technical education, which shall be under the supervision
38 and management of the deputy commissioner of career technical education. The deputy
39 commissioner shall be appointed by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education,
40 with the approval of the board. It shall be the duty of the deputy commissioner to improve and
41 maximize career technical education throughout the commonwealth, and to collaborate with the
42 board to promulgate regulations and develop and implement polices to enhance all career
43 technical education programs in the commonwealth, including but not limited to ensuring the
44 enforcement of regulations relative to certificates of occupational proficiency.

45 Section 39. The office, established pursuant to section 38 of this chapter, shall promote
46 and support with available resources innovative and collaborative career technical education
47 demonstration programs in which students split time between their comprehensive high school
48 and a school offering said programs pursuant to chapter 74. Under said programs, participating
49 students shall take required academic classes in the morning and vocational courses in the
50 afternoon when the equipment is available.

51 Section 40. (a) The office, established pursuant to section 38 of this chapter, shall
52 develop credentials for students graduating from high quality CTE programs in applied
53 knowledge, effective relationships, and workplace skills as described in the federal
54 Employability Skills Framework.

55 (b) The office shall ensure instructional ability and competence of CTE instructors
56 through the utilization of occupational advisory boards and nationally validated teacher
57 competency testing.

58 (c) The office shall utilize both pre- and post-technical assessment in both cognitive and
59 psychomotor domains to determine what students know and are able to do.

60 (d) The office shall collaborate with recognized industry credential providers to develop
61 state-customized credentials to measure career readiness through skill assessments appropriate to
62 each tier of CTE.

63 (e) The office shall consider the use of the 21st Century Skills for Workplace Success
64 Credential, which validates overall workplace readiness skills and is aligned to the Employability
65 Skills Framework of the federal Office of Career and Technical Adult Education. This credential
66 may be utilized to validate basic competencies before participation in externships or school-
67 based enterprises, and it may be utilized with state one-stop career centers or as a graduation or
68 completion requirement for post-graduate and post-secondary chapter 74 programs.

69 (f) The office shall support the use of Industry Recognized Credentials, known as IRCs,
70 in chapter 74 programs.

71 (g) The office shall support the use of both longitudinal and pre- and post-student
72 assessment as a means of obtaining meaningful data for curricular improvement. Data may be
73 utilized for facilities improvement, equipment investments, mission success, and professional
74 development.

75 (h) The office shall engage in statewide data sharing agreements with credential
76 providers that include a variety of access portals for a variety of levels of personnel, including
77 but not limited to state and local CTE administration, CTE teachers, parents, and students, giving
78 access to stakeholders to assess program effectiveness.

79 (i) The office shall encourage and work to increase the use of articulation agreements
80 with community colleges and public universities and other dual credit programs to allow CTE
81 students to earn credit and stacked credentials that lead to an associate degree.

82 (j) The office shall implement and promote efforts, including those related to student
83 outreach and retention, to ensure that CTE programs are accessible to all students, including
84 English language learners, students with disabilities, and student populations traditionally
85 underrepresented in CTE programs.

86 SECTION 4. Chapter 70 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 132
87 of the Acts of 2019, is hereby further amended by inserting the following new section:-

88 Section 10A. Expansion Grants for Regional Vocational Schools

89 (a) In addition to the funding otherwise provided pursuant to this chapter, any regional or
90 county vocational or agricultural school shall, subject to appropriation, receive a one-year
91 expansion grant in any fiscal year in which its foundation enrollment increases by more than two
92 percent over its foundation enrollment for the previous fiscal year.

93 (b) The amount of said expansion grant shall be calculated by multiplying the number of
94 additional students in its foundation enrollment, over its foundation enrollment for the previous
95 fiscal year, by its per-student foundation budget amount. The per-student foundation budget

96 amount shall be calculated by dividing the district’s foundation budget amount for the current
97 year by its foundation enrollment for the prior fiscal year.

98 (c) The department shall annually solicit information from all regional and county
99 vocational and agricultural schools as needed to estimate the amounts required to fund expansion
100 grants in the coming fiscal year for all such schools, and the department shall request
101 appropriation of the amount required to fully fund such expansion grants.

102 (d) If the amount appropriated for expansion grants in a fiscal year is less than the amount
103 required to fully fund such grants, then each eligible regional or county vocational or agricultural
104 school shall receive a share of the appropriated funds proportional to the share that its expansion
105 grant, calculated pursuant to subsection (b), constitutes of the total amount of expansion grants
106 for all schools, pursuant to said subsection.

107 SECTION 5. Section 3A of Chapter 70B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
108 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the number “17” and inserting “19” in place
109 thereof, and further by inserting, after “Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc.” the
110 following:-

111 “, Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc., Alliance for Vocational
112 Technical Education Coalition,”

113 SECTION 6. Subsection (q) of section 16 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so
114 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the word “five”, and inserting in place thereof the
115 word “fifty”.

116 SECTION 7. (a) There shall hereby be established a commission to be known as the
117 CTE Funding Commission, to study funding options for career technical education, or CTE,
118 programs. The commission shall consist of four representatives of the department of elementary
119 and secondary education, to be appointed by the deputy commissioner of the office of career
120 technical education, provided that one appointee shall be the secretary of education or a
121 designee, who shall serve as chair, and three representatives of the executive office of labor and
122 workforce development, to be appointed by the secretary of labor and workforce development.
123 The commission shall identify the use of funds for changing market needs.

124 This commission shall make recommendations, which shall include but not be limited to,
125 the following:

126 (1) whether the Massachusetts school building authority may spend money on equipment
127 only, or if they are limited to funding for education structures;

128 (2) whether the Massachusetts school building authority should add incentives for the
129 approved chapter 74 educational spaces in programs that align to labor market demand;

130 (3) how to simplify state law, particularly section 16 of chapter 71 of the General Laws,
131 so that all regional school districts can secure bonding for critical capital projects through the
132 district-wide referendum process outlined in subsection (n) of said section 16 of said chapter 71
133 of the General Laws;

134 (4) how to change language in subsection (d) of said section 16 of said chapter 71 of the
135 General Laws to allow all regional school districts the option to secure project bonding approval
136 upon a two-thirds vote of approval of each legislative body of a municipality comprising the
137 district; and

138 (5) any other recommendations relative to CTE funding at the commission’s discretion.

139 (b) The commission shall submit a report, which shall include the findings of the study
140 and all such recommendations and any proposed drafts of legislation, not later than one year after
141 the effective date of this act.

142 SECTION 8. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, to meet the
143 expenditures necessary in carrying out section 1, the state treasurer shall, upon receipt of a
144 request by the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an amount to be specified
145 by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate, \$3,000,000,000. All
146 bonds issued by the commonwealth, as aforesaid, shall be designated on their face
147 “Commonwealth Career Technical Education Capacity Expansion Act of 2021” and shall be
148 issued for a maximum term of years, not exceeding 30 years, as the governor may recommend to
149 the general court pursuant to section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution;
150 provided, however, that all such bonds shall be payable not later than June 30, 2056. All interest
151 and payments on account of principal on such obligations shall be payable from the general fund.
152 Bonds and interest thereon issued under the authority of this section shall, notwithstanding any
153 other provision of this act, be general obligations of the commonwealth.