

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mr. Downing

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

A Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the recruitment and retention of college graduates and skilled workers for the Commonwealth's workforce.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Mr. Downing	Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

RESOLVE

Resolved,

1 There shall be a special commission for the purpose of devising a statewide strategy to recruit and retain
2 college graduates and individuals who have completed skilled apprentice training programs for the
3 Massachusetts workforce. The commission shall consist of 3 members of the senate to be appointed by
4 the senate president, 1 of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and 1 of whom shall serve as
5 co-chair, 3 members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house, 1 of
6 whom shall be a member of the minority party, and 1 of whom shall serve as co-chair, the commissioner
7 of the board of higher education or his designee, the secretary of workforce development or her
8 designee, the director of apprentice training or his designee, the undersecretary of housing and
9 community development or her designee, the president of the university of Massachusetts or his
10 designee, 3 representatives of the 9 state colleges, to be appointed by the governor, 3 representatives
11 from the 15 community colleges, to be appointed by the governor, the president of the association of
12 independent colleges and universities in Massachusetts or his designee, the president of associated
13 industries of Massachusetts or his designee, and the president of the Massachusetts AFL/CIO or his
14 designee. The 6 gubernatorial appointees shall represent public institutions of higher education from all
15 regions of the Commonwealth.

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17 The commission’s study shall include analysis of why Massachusetts college graduates and
18 skilled workers leave the Commonwealth after graduation and shall develop a comprehensive
19 recruitment and retention statewide plan to secure a diverse and well-trained workforce across the
20 Commonwealth. Said plan may involve recommendations or programs to assist with the repayment of
21 student loans, first time home buying, or other initiatives that the commission finds to be of importance
22 to young graduates and workers as they consider where to settle after completing their academic or
23 professional training. The commission shall consider the costs of self sufficiency, housing and quality of
24 life across Massachusetts as well as the types of jobs available in all regions of the Commonwealth. The
25 commission shall make recommendations about how the state’s higher education, apprenticeship
26 training and workforce development agencies should collaborate in order to recruit and retain young
27 workers in Massachusetts.

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29 The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study, and
30 its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry such
31 recommendations into effect by filing them with the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the house of
32 representatives on or before June 30, 2010. The commission may issue preliminary or interim reports to
33 the general court before that date.

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