

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marc R. Pacheco

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:

An Act establishing a Commonwealth citizen service initiative.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Marc R. Pacheco

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Plymouth and Bristol

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S01094 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 121, as appearing
2 in the 2002 Official Edition.

3 SECTION 2. Said chapter 6 is hereby further amended by striking out sections 209 to 213,
4 inclusive, as so appearing.

5 SECTION 3. The general court finds: that the commonwealth has a strong history of community
6 service, community service-learning, and volunteerism, with a vast array of programs that
7 successfully mobilize volunteers and encourage students to be active members of their
8 communities; that every day thousands of people across the commonwealth generously give their
9 time to educate students, assist the elderly, protect our city streets and address other critical
10 community needs; that the increasing demand for services, and limited financial resources of the
11 commonwealth, have contributed to the need to call up the energy, compassion, inventiveness,

12 and the entrepreneurial spirit of all citizens to help solve many of the problems facing their
13 communities; that research shows community service-learning helps meet the goal of education
14 reform by improving student learning, enhancing student performance, and promoting the ethic
15 of service; that the entire state benefits from building upon the experience, expertise and
16 successes of the higher education service community to create the system-wide commonwealth
17 student corps; and that it is in the commonwealth's best interest to promote reforms that will
18 better coordinate volunteers, engage students in their communities, utilize funds, foster
19 communication among organizations, identify the needs of the state and replicate successful
20 models; and, that the purpose of these reforms is to make the commonwealth a national leader
21 for community service, community service-learning, and volunteerism.

22 SECTION 4. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 6A the
23 following chapter:-

24 CHAPTER 6C.

25 MASSACHUSETTS SERVICE ALLIANCE COMMISSION.

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

28 Section 2. (a) There shall be a Massachusetts Service Alliance Commission, referred to in this
29 chapter as the MSA for the purpose of advising and assisting in the development and
30 implementation of a comprehensive, state-wide plan for promoting volunteer involvement and
31 citizen participation, as well as to serve as the commonwealth's liaison to national and state
32 organizations which support the MSA's mission. The MSA shall establish guidelines and

33 programs to reform, expand, replicate and implement community service and volunteer
34 opportunities in the commonwealth. The programs and activities shall be coordinated among
35 state departments and agencies to optimize the allocation of resources. The MSA shall
36 promulgate regulations necessary to implement this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

68 Section 5.(a) The MSA shall appoint a community service-learning advisory council consisting
69 of not less than 10 nor more than 30 members. These persons shall represent a wide range of

70 professions and institutions involved in education and community service, which will include,
71 but not be limited to teachers, superintendents, counselors, students, school board members,
72 independent agencies, business community, a Massachusetts Service Alliance member, a
73 Massachusetts Campus Compact member, union representative and program coordinators. The
74 MSA member or designee shall chair the advisory council.

75 (b). The advisory council shall assist the MSA, commissioner of education and the public higher
76 education institutions in the development of a statewide initiative to integrate the philosophy and
77 practice of community service-learning into the public schools, colleges and universities. These
78 guidelines shall be directly linked to the Education Reform Act pursuant to chapter 71 of the acts
79 of 1993. The council shall develop guidelines and criteria for disseminating grants to districts
80 through a competitive process and the establishment of professional development opportunities
81 for teachers, students, and community partners. The council shall develop a plan to require all
82 districts to integrate community service-learning into curricula and teaching practices over a
83 five-year period, beginning on January, 1, 2008.

84 SECTION 5. Section 13 of chapter 19A of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

85 SECTION 6. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 31E,
86 as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, the following section:-

87 Section 31F. The state employees voluntary program pursuant to section 31E shall be
88 expanded to address additional community needs, such as environmental, educational, health and
89 public safety issues throughout the commonwealth, through volunteer opportunities at accredited

90 non-profit organizations. The program shall be part of an aggressive advertising campaign
91 targeting, but not limited to, public employees and public institutions.

92 SECTION 7. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 10A,
93 as so appearing, the following 6 sections:-

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

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

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

101 "Community service-learning", a pedagogical approach to learning and a methodology for
102 teaching, incorporating the study of local community problems and larger social issues into the
103 classroom curriculum, using real world scenarios as the basis for learning curricular content and
104 developing skills including, but not limited to critical and creative thinking skills, problem
105 solving, reasoning, communication and collaboration skills, hereinafter referred to as the
106 Common Core of Learning. Community service-learning enables students to be active,
107 contributing members of society;

108 "Commissioner", the commissioner of education.

109 "Department", the department of education.

110 "Board", the board of education.

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

118 (b) This program shall provide schools with targeted professional development,
119 resources and grant awards to systematically integrate community service-learning into academic
120 courses of study and to encourage schools and school districts to incorporate community service-
121 learning into school-wide goals and school improvement plans pursuant to section 59C of
122 chapter 71 of the General Laws. The program will require that schools use community service-
123 learning as a strategy for implementing education reform and to make important structural and
124 organizational changes that support improved student learning and teacher professionalism.

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

127 (1) ensure each school in the commonwealth provides opportunities for students to
128 participate in community service-learning as a part of their regular academic courses including
129 but not limited to mathematics, science, English language arts, history and social studies, art,

130 health and world languages and other courses designed to address the student learning goals and
131 standards outlined in the Education Reform Act pursuant to chapter 71 of the acts of 1993;

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

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

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

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

148 (5) ensure that each school incorporates the process it will use to include community
149 service-learning into its curricula and teaching practices school-wide into its school improvement

150 development plan pursuant to section 59C of chapter 71 of the General Laws and its school
151 professional development plan, developed pursuant to section 38Q of said chapter 71;

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

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

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

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

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

164 (3) develop a statewide community service-learning initiative and plan for integrating
165 community service-learning into school curricula and teaching practices over a five year period
166 and ensure that this plan is integrated into the Massachusetts Service Alliance's Massachusetts
167 plan for service. All school schools shall begin to implement their individual five-year plans by
168 September, 1, 2008;

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

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

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

176 SECTION 8. Section 2 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended
177 by adding the following 2 paragraphs:-

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

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

188 SECTION 9. Section 2A of chapter 73 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended
189 by adding the following paragraph:-

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

204 SECTION 10. Said chapter 73 is hereby amended by inserting after said section 2A, as so
205 appearing, the following 2 sections:-

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

208 “Massachusetts campus compact”, is a membership organization of college and university
209 presidents leading Massachusetts institutions of higher education in building a statewide
210 collaboration to promote service as a critical component of higher education.

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

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

214 ”Public Higher Education Institutions”, the institutions cited in section 5 of chapter 15A of the
215 Massachusetts General Laws.

216 "Commonwealth student corps", a statewide program to coordinate the activity of students and
217 others in activities, services and resources relative to the environment, education, public health
218 and public safety that support or provide primary service to underserved populations and
219 geographical areas in the commonwealth. The commonwealth student corps shall consist of, but
220 not be limited to, the student education corps, the student conservation corps, the student health
221 corps and the student public safety corps.

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

223 "Unmet community needs", underserved populations and geographical areas in the
224 commonwealth.

225 Section 2C. (a) The public higher education institutions, with the council, shall establish the
226 commonwealth student corps to expand opportunities for students of environmental professions,
227 student of educational professions, students of public health professions, students of public safety

228 professions, educators, practitioners, and active and retired certified professionals to participate
229 in public service programs that help meet critical community needs. The public higher education
230 institutions shall work in cooperation with the MSA and develop a program to expand and
231 coordinate public and private resources that promote community service by connecting
232 supervised students with professionals in service programs opportunities that are consistent with
233 students' respective area of study

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

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

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

242 (e) The purpose and goals of the curriculum based community service-learning program is to:

243 (1) increase opportunities for students throughout Massachusetts to participate in real world
244 applied learning through curriculum based service activities; (2) help address the state's
245 community needs; (3) strengthen communities through service; and (4) enhance the ethic of
246 service.

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

249 (1) conduct studies and accredited projects;

250 (2) apply to private sources and federal government for grants to implement studies and

251 accredited service projects; deposit funds and received from those sources in a separate account

252 at the department of each state college or university; and expend such funds for the purpose set

253 forth in this section;

254 (3) enter into agreements with each other and other entities as allowed by law for the purposes of

255 implementing this chapter;

256 (4) study the feasibility of utilizing the services of retired professionals and other licensed and

257 certified professionals;

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

259 (6) implement statewide commonwealth student corps programs designed to achieve the

260 comprehensive and coordinated delivery of services to underserved populations and geographical

261 areas; and

262 (7) appoint a program director to implement and administer the studies and accredited service

263 projects initiated by this chapter.

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

265 Phase I- The public higher education institutions, with the council, shall develop and

266 implement a curriculum based community service program for students participating in the

267 academic areas of education, the environment, public health, and public safety on or before
268 August 1, 2009;

269 Phase II- The public higher education institutions, with the council, shall develop and
270 implement a curriculum based community service program institution-wide on or before August
271 1, 2012."

272 SECTION 11. Said chapter 73 is hereby further amended by adding the following 7 sections:-

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

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

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

286 Section 24. Subject to a specific appropriation for this purpose, the board of higher education
287 shall establish a housing voucher program to be known as the Massachusetts community service
288 and volunteer housing voucher program, to provide students in approved Massachusetts colleges
289 and universities with housing vouchers for the purpose of encouraging outstanding
290 Massachusetts' students to participate and foster community service and volunteer opportunities
291 within the commonwealth. The housing voucher, in the form and manner as the board
292 determines, may be utilized by the recipient to assist in paying housing costs, including rent or
293 mortgage payments, while the recipient is enrolled in good standing in the college or university.
294 A student shall not participate in more than one of the programs established under sections 22 to
295 24, inclusive.

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

302
303 SECTION 12. A member of the commonwealth student corps shall not be considered an
304 employee of the commonwealth entitled to benefits such as worker's compensation or
305 unemployment benefits, nor shall a member be considered to be an employee of the
306 commonwealth. A municipality shall not be held liable for any claim arising out of a community
307 service program. Service opportunities shall not replace existing state employees.

308 SECTION 13. The General Laws are hereby amended by striking out chapter 78A.

309 SECTION 14. The commissioner of education and the public higher education institutions shall
310 each file annually with the community service-learning advisory council established under
311 chapter 6B of the General Laws on or before January 1, a report of schools participating in
312 community service-learning activities, the commonwealth corps activities, and other the progress
313 of other community service and volunteer programs, as well as other pertinent service data as
314 determined by the advisory council. The Massachusetts Service Alliance shall compile the
315 reports and additional service data and report annually to the clerk of the senate and house of
316 representatives on or before September 1 in order to foster communication among local, state
317 and federally funded programs engaged in community service and volunteer opportunities. Said
318 report shall include, but not be limited to:

- 319 (1) a financial statement summarizing its expenditures and available funds;
- 320 (2) the number of projects and proposed corps placements submitted to it;
- 321 (3) the number of volunteers generated;
- 322 (4) a description of approved projects and a summary of the work completed.

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

328 SECTION 16. This act shall take effect January 1, 2008.