

By Mrs. Myerson of Brookline, petition of Eleanor Myerson and other members of the General Court for legislation to authorize the Department of Education and other state agencies to develop a comprehensive system for the delivery of adult basic education and literacy services. Education, Arts and Humanities.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Eight.

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AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN WORKFORCE 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. The Department of Education in coordination  
2 with other state agencies shall develop a comprehensive system  
3 for the delivery of adult basic education and literacy services that  
4 will ensure opportunities leading to universal basic adult literacy  
5 and better employment opportunities.

6 Said system shall be designed to strengthen, enhance, and where  
7 needed, to create intensive community based literacy programs  
8 for AFDC recipients and other unemployed and marginally  
9 employed adults who need a foundation of basic skills to qualify  
10 for further education, job training and employment. These  
11 trainees shall include mothers of young children who need strong  
12 basic skills to move their families out of poverty and raise the  
13 educational aspirations of their children.

14 Said system shall also include instruction for immigrants,  
15 migrants, and refugees who need English language and literacy  
16 skills to function effectively at home and in the workplace.

17 Instruction to the aforesaid populations will emphasize  
18 instruction at the lowest grade levels.

19 Said system shall further include instruction for young men,  
20 aged sixteen through twenty-four, who have dropped out of  
21 school without sufficient skills to qualify for employment.  
22 Instruction shall be designed with emphasis on linking education  
23 with vocational training and supported work.

1 SECTION 2. In order to accomplish the goals set out in  
2 Section One of this act and to strengthen the capacity of the  
3 current adult literacy network, the Department of Education shall  
4 distribute grants to provide comprehensive literacy services,  
5 including support services, in the context of adults' daily lives in  
6 their communities, including, but not limited to, public housing,  
7 schools, the work place, correctional institutions, community-  
8 based organizations, community colleges, libraries, and in social  
9 and cultural organizations.

10 The Department shall endeavor to develop the following  
11 objectives: (1) a full continuum of services that take an adult from  
12 the lowest level of literacy or English language proficiency through  
13 high school completion leading to advanced education and  
14 training; (2) a network of well-trained, full-time adult literacy and  
15 English as a Second Language professional instructors, qualified  
16 to provide high quality effective services; (3) a strong documen-  
17 tation and evaluation capacity that will enable the state to  
18 determine what methods of instruction and what means of service  
19 delivery are most effective in educating adults; (4) and  
20 coordinated accountability mechanisms that simplify existing  
21 reporting and refunding processes.

1 SECTION 3. The sum of eight million dollars is hereby  
2 appropriated for fiscal year nineteen hundred and eighty-nine to  
3 develop this system under the auspices of the Department of  
4 Education in coordination with other agencies through the  
5 Commonwealth Literacy Campaign and the Interagency Literacy  
6 Task Force, ten percent of which shall be expended for statewide  
7 staff development, evaluation, and technical assistance to  
8 programs and five percent of which shall be expended for  
9 administration.