

By Ms. Hildt of Amesbury, petition of Barbara Hildt, other members of the General Court and another for legislation to establish within the Executive Office of Communities and Development a grant program to assist communities in the development of programs for the care of school age children of working parents or guardians. Education, Arts and Humanities.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR "LATCH-KEY" CHILDREN.

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

1 Chapter 23B of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding  
2 the following new sections:

3 Section 29. The Executive Office of Communities and  
4 Development shall establish a grant program to assist  
5 communities in the development, expansion or improvement of  
6 programs for the care of school age children of parents or  
7 guardians who are unavailable because they are working or in  
8 education or job training programs during the hours when school  
9 is not in session.

10 Programs receiving grants shall offer a range of educational,  
11 social, cultural and recreational activities that support a child's  
12 development. the programs shall provide for family involvement  
13 and parent education.

14 Municipalities or non profit groups applying for grants shall  
15 document the need for school age child care programs. Priorities  
16 in awarding grants shall be given to programs located in  
17 communities demonstrating the greatest socio-economic needs.

18 Programs that involve the collaboration of non-profit groups,  
19 schools and municipal agencies shall also be given priority in the  
20 awarding of funds.

21 Section 29A. Through cooperative arrangements with broad-  
22 based coordinating structures, including Commonwealth Futures  
23 and in collaboration with job training programs, and in  
24 accordance with Title II, Part A. Section 204 of the Job Training  
25 Partnership Act, an application program may elect to utilize the  
26 school age child care program as a site for the preparation of  
27 eligible youth and young adults for career employment in human  
28 services. Programs of career training may include a combination  
29 of institutional training, supervised on-the-job training and  
30 internship assignments.

31 In addition, an applicant may elect to utilize the school age child  
32 care program as the site of an exemplary youth program in  
33 accordance with Section 205 of Title II of the Job Training  
34 Partnership Act. Such a program would provide for an education-  
35 for-employment program for youth who have not yet attained a  
36 high school diploma, with priority given to high school drop-outs.  
37 The program may include entry level employment experiences,  
38 cooperative education or school-to-work transition experience.

39 The applicant shall, whenever possible, enter into arrangements  
40 with local school districts and community colleges in order to  
41 make maximum use of available educational resources for  
42 training youth and young adults to work in day care settings. Such  
43 resources may include, but are not limited to, Drop-out  
44 Prevention Discretionary Grants of Chapter 15, Section 52, the  
45 Department of Education Comprehensive Health Education and  
46 Human Services Discretionary Grants Program and the  
47 Commonwealth Careers — Opportunities in Health Care and  
48 Human Services Program.

49 All school age child care programs funded by the Executive  
50 Office of Communities and Development shall meet licensing  
51 standards of the Office for Children as defined in Chapter 28A.  
52 Section 9.