

By Ms. Bump of Braintree, petition of Suzanne M. Bump and David P. Magnani for legislation to promote the commercialization of technology. Commerce and Labor.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF TECHNOLOGY.

*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. Section 1 of chapter 40I of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in the 1990 Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
3 inserting after line 40 the words: —

4 “Further, small and medium-sized businesses cannot afford to  
5 explore new markets or to undertake the feasibility studies  
6 necessary for long-range planning and for implementing process  
7 changes, and this is essential for these businesses to become or  
8 to remain competitive.

9 “Therefore, it is found that it is in the public interest of the  
10 commonwealth to promote the prosperity and general welfare of  
11 its citizens, a public purpose for which public money may be  
12 expended, to encourage and facilitate the redirection and growth  
13 of small and medium sized manufacturing companies toward  
14 business modernization by supporting the transfer of technology  
15 and quality improvement methods to the workplace.”

1 SECTION 2. Section 5 of said chapter 40I is hereby amended  
2 by inserting after subsection (p) the following new subsections: —

3 (q) to coordinate programs established by universities to  
4 provide Massachusetts business with scientific and technological  
5 information;

6 (r) to assist in establishing cooperative associations of  
7 universities in Massachusetts and of private enterprises for the  
8 purpose of coordinating research and development programs that

9 will, consistent with the primary educational function of the  
10 universities, aid in the creation of new jobs in Massachusetts;

11 (s) to identify scientific and technological problems and  
12 opportunities that will contribute to the improvement of  
13 productivity of Massachusetts manufacturers and formulate  
14 proposals to overcome those problems or realize those  
15 opportunities;

16 (t) to identify specific areas in which financial investment in  
17 scientific and technological research and development from  
18 private businesses located in Massachusetts could be enhanced or  
19 increased if state resources were made available to assist in  
20 financing activities;

21 (u) to advise universities of the research needs of Massachusetts  
22 businesses and improve the exchange of scientific and  
23 technological information for the mutual benefit of universities  
24 and private businesses;

25 (v) to determine and define a set of services and method of  
26 delivery, which will also coordinate and enhance existing  
27 manufacturing technology and business related services in the  
28 Commonwealth, that will aid small and medium-sized Massachu-  
29 setts manufacturing firms in improving business operations and  
30 use of manufacturing technologies to achieve higher levels of  
31 competitiveness in domestic and international markets.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter 40I is hereby amended by inserting  
2 after section 7E the following new sections: —

3 Section 7F. As used in sections seven G to seven K, inclusive,  
4 the following words shall have the following meanings: —

5 “Small or medium sized manufacturing firms”, companies  
6 employing people in Massachusetts which produce or assemble  
7 a product for sale or provide a manufacturing service related to  
8 the production of goods or parts and which employ in  
9 Massachusetts fewer than 500 employees;

10 “Technology transfer”, the adoption by a firm of new or  
11 improved methods of production, better product design, and  
12 systems or techniques to improve firm performance;

13 “Manufacturing services”, services provided to manufacturing  
14 firms or groups of manufacturing firms to assist in technology  
15 transfer or for purposes described in Section Seven I;

16 “Manufacturing extension services”, the set of services and the  
17 forms of delivery of those services offered to manufacturing firms  
18 through designated offices and locations for purposes defined in  
19 Section Seven I.

20 Section 7G. There shall be within the Bay State Skills  
21 Corporation an entity of the state known as the Bay State Center  
22 for Applied Technology, hereafter referred to as the Center, which  
23 shall define and carry out a program of services for small and  
24 medium-sized manufacturing firms including those responsibilities  
25 defined in Section 3 subsections (q) through (v) as related to  
26 manufacturing firms. The overall purpose of the Center’s activities  
27 and functions shall be to develop and deliver a program of services  
28 for improving the competitiveness of Massachusetts manufactur-  
29 ing firms, including the quality of employment opportunities,  
30 maintenance of industrial capacity within Massachusetts and  
31 improvement of the climate for manufacturing in Massachusetts  
32 through applications of technology, manufacturing services and  
33 business development related to manufacturing.

34 Section 7H. The chairperson of the Bay State Skills Corpora-  
35 tion board of directors, hereafter referred to as the chairperson,  
36 shall appoint members of an advisory board on manufacturing  
37 services hereafter referred to as the advisory board established for  
38 the purpose of directing and overseeing the work of the Bay State  
39 Center for Applied Technology and for the purpose of making  
40 recommendations relative to the implementation of a program to  
41 services for manufacturing firms. The advisory board, from time  
42 to time, shall suggest to said chairperson new programs of  
43 manufacturing services and report its evaluations of existing  
44 programs of the Bay State Center for Applied Technology with  
45 recommendations for any necessary changes for the purposes of  
46 assisting said chairperson in coordinating, promoting and  
47 establishing statewide services for manufacturing. The advisory  
48 board shall provide the chairperson with recommendations  
49 regarding the funding of new or existing services; shall provide  
50 the chairperson with recommendations regarding the coordina-  
51 tion of state service for business development, financing,  
52 technology-related and other services needed by manufacturing  
53 firms into a cohesive manufacturing extension service. With said

54 chairperson the advisory board shall initiate new programs  
55 deemed necessary to carry out the Center's mission.

56 Section 7I. The Bay State Center for Applied Technology shall  
57 develop and offer services to the Massachusetts manufacturing  
58 community which are consistent with its mission and goals and  
59 which include but are not limited to the following responsibilities:

60 1) Establish a statewide manufacturing and business modern-  
61 ization service to identify ways to enhance manufacturing  
62 productivity and market competitiveness of small and medium  
63 sized manufacturing firms through a focus on technology transfer  
64 and business development services. Such services will promote  
65 improvements in production and organization so that firms will  
66 become more competitive, solve technology-related problems and  
67 achieve more efficient levels of organization;

68 2) Coordinate a manufacturing extension service to help  
69 develop the regional delivery of services to manufacturing and to  
70 coordinate and enhance the delivery of existing manufacturing  
71 services to industry;

72 3) Develop and offer services that assist manufacturers to  
73 adopt more productive manufacturing technologies in processes  
74 and products;

75 4) Develop and offer services that promote the involvement of  
76 the workforce in strategies for manufacturing improvement and  
77 for improving the quality of employment in manufacturing  
78 through better skills utilization and workforce development;

79 5) Provide and coordinate services which assist firms in the  
80 planning for and financing of capital improvements in technology  
81 utilization and organization;

82 6) Coordinate activities with various employment and training  
83 providers and with the MassJobs Council to assist in upgrading  
84 worker skills and in the effective utilization of worker skills in the  
85 adoption of new or improved technologies;

86 7) Enter into partnerships and seek additional sources of  
87 funding and development from federal and non-state, private  
88 sources for the support of Massachusetts manufacturing services  
89 and to develop services which are self-supporting through fee for  
90 services or revenue producing activities.

91 Section 7J. The executive director of the Bay State Skills  
92 Corporation in consultation with the advisory board shall appoint

93 a program director who shall report to the executive director, keep  
94 advisory board records, and shall oversee the development of the  
95 program and services of the Bay State Center for Applied  
96 Techology.

97 Section 7K. The Chairperson shall report annually to the  
98 governor and file a copy thereof with the clerk of the house of  
99 representatives and the clerk of the senate and the advisory board  
100 on the work of the programs of the Bay State Center for Applied  
101 Techology. The report shall include the number of firms and  
102 employees served, the type of services developed and delivered and  
103 the cost effectiveness of the programs.





