

By Mr. Greene of Billerica, petition of William G. Greene, Jr., Michael J. Rodrigues, Colleen M. Garry and William C. Galvin that provisions be made for the awarding of certificates of occupational proficiency to certain students enrolled in vocational education programs. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

AN ACT RECOGNIZING VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL LEARNING IN EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT.

1     *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to  
2 defeat its purpose, which is to immediately provide for an appro-  
3 priate recognition of vocational-technical learning in educational  
4 assessment in the commonwealth, therefore it is hereby declared  
5 to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation  
6 of the public convenience.

*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 1D of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out lines  
3 85-93, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following:—  
4     (iii) The “certificate of occupational proficiency” shall be  
5 awarded to students who successfully complete a comprehensive  
6 education and training program in a particular trade or profes-  
7 sional skill area and who have successfully completed an acad-  
8 emic assessment tailored to the particular academic objectives of  
9 vocational educational programs. The occupational component of  
10 the certificate of occupational proficiency shall reflect a determi-  
11 nation that the recipient has demonstrated mastery of a core of  
12 skills, competencies and knowledge comparable to that possessed  
13 by students of equivalent age entering the particular trade or pro-  
14 fession from the most educationally advanced education systems

15 in the world. The academic component of the certificate of occu-  
16 pational proficiency shall be designed to measure the specific aca-  
17 demic competencies most central to the particular trade or  
18 professional skill area in which the student has pursued a course  
19 of study, and shall take into account the additional, nontraditional  
20 academic accomplishments inherent in a vocational educational  
21 program. The academic and educational components of the certifi-  
22 cate of occupational proficiency shall be developed by the board  
23 after consultation with and an opportunity for effective input by  
24 local vocational education administrators recommended by the  
25 Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators. Separate  
26 standards shall be developed for each particular trade or profes-  
27 sional skill area. Attainment of a certificate of occupational profi-  
28 ciency shall satisfy, as a condition for high school graduation, the  
29 requirements of a competency determination under Clause (i) of  
30 this section, provided that no student enrolled in a program of  
31 vocational education shall be required, as a condition of gradua-  
32 tion from high school, to attain either a competency determination  
33 or a certificate of occupational proficiency until the fourth school  
34 year following the promulgation by the board of the standards for  
35 a certificate of occupational proficiency for the particular trade or  
36 professional skill area in which the student has pursued or is pur-  
37 suing a course of study.