

By Mrs. Owens-Hicks of Boston, petition of Shirley Owens-Hicks, Gloria L. Fox, Althea Garrison, Raymond A. Jordan, Jr., Alvin E. Thompson and Karen O'Donnell for legislation to include programs for out-of-school youth within the essential skills discretionary grant program. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT INCLUDING PROGRAMS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH WITHIN THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM.

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 52 of chapter 15 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1990 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the
4 following paragraph: —

5 The board shall establish an essential skills discretionary grant
6 program. The board may make grant awards to school districts
7 with high concentrations of low income students, high
8 concentrations of students deficient in basic skills, high
9 concentrations of students likely to drop out of school, or high
10 concentrations of out-of-school youth, as determined by the
11 board, for basic skills remediation programs, dropout prevention
12 programs, and out-of-school youth programs. In awarding grants
13 for out-of-school youth programs, the board shall consider
14 proposals from community agencies serving out-of-school youth
15 in school districts where high concentrations of out-of-school
16 youth are identified. The board shall primarily use the statewide
17 basic skills test results in determining recipients of essential skills
18 grants under this section for basic skills remediation programs.

1 SECTION 2. Said section 52 of said chapter 15, as so
2 appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the third

3 paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following
4 paragraph: —

5 Programs may include counseling programs to improve school
6 discipline, work-study or cooperative education, alternative
7 education, part-time employment and school-to-work transition
8 programs for in-school or out-of-school youth. Out-of-school
9 youth programs must establish that enrolled youth are not
10 currently enrolled in other diploma granting programs and may
11 include outreach programs to draw youth to school, counseling
12 and educational programs. The board shall solicit proposals for
13 dropout prevention programs for students in grades seven to
14 twelve, inclusive. The board shall solicit proposals for out-of-
15 school youth programs for youth of age twelve to twenty-one,
16 inclusive. Applications shall include a statement of need, program
17 objectives and implementation, program evaluations, and
18 proposed linkages with business, labor, higher education and
19 other agencies. Applications put forth by community agencies
20 serving out-of-school youth shall, in addition, include proposed
21 linkages with the school districts being served by community
22 agencies. Proposals which provide matching funds from local,
23 federal and private sources shall be given priority. Each school
24 committee applying for funds for a dropout prevention program
25 and each school committee or community agency applying for
26 funds for an out-of-school youth program shall appoint an
27 advisory council comprised of parents, teachers, school
28 administrators and representatives of business, labor, higher
29 education and other community agencies. Council members shall
30 be broadly representative of the racial and ethnic diversity of the
31 commonwealth. The advisory council shall assist in the
32 development of the application proposal and in program
33 implementation.

1 SECTION 3. Said section 52 of said chapter 15, as so
2 appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the period
3 at the end of the final sentence of said section, and by inserting
4 after the word “programs”, the following words: — and out-of-
5 school youth programs.

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.