

By Mr. Demers of Chicopee, petition of Richard H. Demers for legislation to establish a critical occupational shortage program within the Executive Office of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Labor.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

AN ACT TO CREATE A CRITICAL OCCUPATIONAL SHORTAGES 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. There shall be established within the Executive  
2 Office of Economic Affairs a Critical Occupational Shortages  
3 Program. On the first day of each fiscal year the Secretary shall  
4 certify those occupations for which there exists critical labor short-  
5 ages throughout the major labor market areas of the Common-  
6 wealth. Training funds appropriated under this act shall be used  
7 only for those occupations that are so certified by the Secretary.

1 SECTION 2. Training funds shall be used for tuition, training  
2 or educational related expenses, and/or stipends to supplement  
3 funding from other financial sources. Training funds shall be dis-  
4 tributed as either direct grants or loans as determined by the  
5 Secretary. Training and educational programs for which these  
6 funds may be used include: secondary and post-secondary public  
7 and private vocational educational programs, community colleges,  
8 CETA skill training programs, and regional skills centers.

