

**An Act to Improve Access, Opportunity, and Capacity
in Massachusetts Vocational-Technical Education
H.D. 849 (Rep. Moran/Rep. Scanlon) and S.D. 2230 (Sen. Feeney)**

Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc.

Last Updated: January 17, 2025

SECTION 1

What it does: Creates a three-year \$300 million targeted grant program to add vocational seats in high-demand, high-wage fields aligned with Regional Labor Market Blueprints. Gives priority to Gateway Cities and regional school districts with wait lists. Eligible schools include regional vocational-technical high schools, agricultural high schools, and comprehensive high schools with five or more Chapter 74 programs. Individual grants would not exceed \$25 million. Funding source: Fair Share Amendment.

History: This is an idea that was developed by MAVA, with the support of the Alliance for Vocational Technical Education (AVTE) over the past year. A version of this proposal was filed by Rep. Frank Moran in 2024 as an amendment to the House Economic Development Bill.

SECTION 2

What it does: Directs the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to increase reimbursement rates for regional vocational-technical high school and agricultural high school construction by twenty (20) percentage points and to increase reimbursement for all schools with five or more Chapter 74 programs by five (5) percentage points. Caps all reimbursement rates at 90%.

History: Similar to language in bills **HB538/SB274** filed in the 2023-2024 legislative session.

SECTION 3

What it does: Mandates that “Chapter 74 Access Policies” be developed in all middle schools in member communities of regional vocational-technical school districts. These policies are designed to promote, enhance and expand vocational-technical education in Massachusetts by ensuring that all middle school students are aware of opportunities to seek a vocational education and that educators in vocational-technical high schools can directly provide information about vocational-technical education to all middle school students in their sending communities.

History: Similar to language in bills **HB538/SB274** filed in the 2023-2024 legislative session.

SECTION 4

What it does: Adds vocational expertise to the MSBA Board of Directors by requiring that one of the four members appointed to the Board by the State Treasurer has demonstrated knowledge of vocational-technical educational standards and curriculum.

History: This is a new idea proposed by MAVA.

SECTION 5

What it does: Adds Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc., (MAVA) and the Alliance for Vocational Technical Education (AVTE) as members of the MSBA Advisory Board.

History: Similar to language in bills **HB538/SB274** filed in the 2023-2024 legislative session.

SECTION 6

What it does: Allows (but clarifies) the creation of duplicate Chapter 74 programs in municipal high schools that are in communities that are members of regional vocational-technical school districts. Requires that duplicate programs must have demonstrated student and labor market need and the regional vocational-technical school is unable to meet that need.

History: This is a revised version of language in bills previously filed by Rep. Adam Scanlon.

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