

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1654**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act creating a special legislative commission to study barriers to job retention for low-income workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1654**

By Mr. LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1654) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Michelle L. Ciccolo and Kay Khan for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to conduct a study and make recommendations on the barriers faced by low-income workers to finding and maintaining jobs in the Commonwealth. Labor and Workforce Development.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)

An Act creating a special legislative commission to study barriers to job retention for low-income workers.

*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.

2 a) Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there shall be a special  
3 commission established to conduct a study and make recommendations on the barriers faced by  
4 low-income workers to finding and maintaining jobs in the Commonwealth. The commission  
5 shall consist of 18 members, as follows:

6 i. House and Senate Chairs of the Committee on Labor and Workforce  
7 Development, who shall serve as Co-Chairs;

8 ii. the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development or the Secretary’s designee;

9 iii. the Secretary of Transportation or the Secretary’s designee;

- 10           iv.     the Secretary of Housing and Economic Development or the Secretary’s designee;
- 11           v.     the Secretary of the Department of Transitional Assistance or the Secretary’s
- 12 designee;
- 13           vi.     the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services or the Secretary’s
- 14 designee;
- 15           vii.    1 of whom shall be a member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by
- 16 the Speaker of the House;
- 17           viii.   1 of whom shall be member of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate President;
- 18           ix.     1 of whom shall be appointed by Ascentria Care Alliance
- 19           x.     1 of whom shall be appointed by the Job Training Alliance
- 20           xi.     1 of whom shall be appointed by the Massachusetts Retail Association
- 21           xii.    1 of whom shall be appointed by Associated Industry of Massachusetts
- 22           xiii.   1 of whom shall be appointed by the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network
- 23           xiv.    1 of whom shall be appointed by EmPath
- 24           xv.     1 of whom shall be appointed by the Mass. Business Roundtable
- 25           xvi.    1 of whom shall be appointed by the Massachusetts Workforce Board Association
- 26           xvii.   1 of whom shall be appointed by the Commonwealth Corporation

27           b)     The Commission shall examine and make recommendations on topics including,  
28 but not limited to:

29           i.     Barriers that exist in Massachusetts that prevent low-income workers from finding  
30 and retaining jobs with sustainable wages;

31           ii.    Strategies that the Commonwealth could employ that would help to address  
32 barriers to job retention for low-income workers;

33           iii.   Massachusetts laws and regulations that are currently in place, or could be put in  
34 place, that assist or hamper this population from maintaining jobs with a sustainable wage;

35           iv.    Holistic and wraparound service approaches and programs that the  
36 Commonwealth could explore to prevent a fragmented and inefficient response to addressing  
37 these barriers.

38           c)     The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the  
39 public to gather information. The Commission and its working groups are encouraged to involve  
40 other experts, stakeholders and members of the public in its work through listening and working  
41 group sessions or whatever other mechanisms the Commission chooses.

42           d)     The commission shall file its recommendations, including any drafts of legislation  
43 or regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the clerks of the house of  
44 representatives and senate, the joint committee on public health and the joint committee on  
45 health care financing not later than March 1, 2020.