

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00540**

---

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Jeffrey Sánchez*

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act making investments in youth employment and educational pathways.

.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jeffrey Sánchez</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 00540

By Mr. Jeffrey Sánchez of Boston, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00540) of Benjamin Swan and others relative to making investments in youth employment and educational pathways to employment. Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 1852 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act making investments in youth employment and educational pathways.

□.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

### 1 YOUTH SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2011

2 The purpose of this Act is to promote and support activities and programs that will increase the  
3 education, skills and employment of Massachusetts’s youth and their successful integration into  
4 the Massachusetts economy.

5 Whereas employers choose Massachusetts and stay in Massachusetts because of the quality of its  
6 workforce, and whereas Massachusetts also leads the nation in innovation, technology  
7 utilization, and attracting capital, all reflecting a quality workforce, the workforce is a critical  
8 asset of Massachusetts’ economic well-being. However, recent trends in teen unemployment,

9 high school dropouts, employer skill demands, demographic shifts within the United States, and  
10 immigration into Massachusetts, point to a need to protect our most competitive asset, the  
11 education and skills of our emerging workforce.

12 Whereas the youth workforce development system in Massachusetts consists of a number of  
13 programs across various state agencies, there is a need for better coordination and alignment. We  
14 must address the needs of young people out of the labor market and out-of-work, those who have  
15 either dropped out of school or are at risk for dropping out; the achievement gap within the  
16 public school system; and the development of educational pathways for young people to obtain a  
17 post secondary education which is increasingly needed for successful entry into the labor market.  
18 There is no alternative if Massachusetts is to fulfill the promise to all our youth and enable them  
19 to succeed in our economy.