

PETITION – HOUSE

CHIEF SPONSOR:

Representative Harkins of Needham

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 or resolve.

PETITIONERS: LEGISLATOR/CITIZEN	DISTRICT/FULL MAILING ADDRESS
Linda E. Harkins	13 th Norfolk District
Jack Hart	1 st Suffolk
Ruth B. Balsler	12 th Middlesex
Christine E. Canavan	10 th Plymouth
Antonio F.D. Cabral	13 th Bristol
Gale D. Candaras	12 th Hampden
Brian Paul Golden	18 th Suffolk
Mary E. Grant	6 th Essex
Patricia D. Jehlen	27 th Middlesex
Kay Khan	11 th Middlesex
Peter J. Koutoujian	10 th Middlesex
Peter J. Larkin	3 rd Berkshire
Elizabeth A. Malia	11 th Suffolk
Anne M. Paulsen	24 th Middlesex
Michael J. Rodrigues	8 th Bristol
Frank I Smizik	15 th Norfolk
Ellen Story	3 rd Hampshire
Kathleen M. Teahan	7 th Plymouth
Patricia A. Walrath	3 rd Middlesex
Martin J. Walsh	13 th Suffolk
Alice K. Wolf	25 th Middlesex
Cynthia Stone Creem	1 st Middlesex and Norfolk
Susan C. Tucker	2 nd Essex and Middlesex
Deborah D. Blumer	6 th Middlesex
Barbara A. L'Italien	18 th Essex
Theodore C. Speliotis	13 th Essex
Peter J. Larkin	3 rd Berkshire
Brian P. Lees	1 st Hampden and Hampshire
Antonio F.D. Cabral	13 th Bristol
Harriett L. Stanley	2 nd Essex
Jennifer M. Callahan	18 th Worcester
William M. Straus	10 th Bristol
Patricia D. Jehlen	27 th Middlesex
Representative John W. Scibak	2 nd Hampshire
Martha M. Walz	8 th Suffolk



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND FIVE

▪ **AN ACT** ESTABLISHING A MASSACHUSETTS WORK-FAMILY COUNCIL.

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

- ESTABLISHING A MASSACHUSETTS WORK-FAMILY COUNCIL.
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- Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following section: -
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- Section 62. Massachusetts Work-Family Council
- (a) *Work-Family Council*
- There shall be a Work-Family Council in the Executive Office of Economic Development. The mission of the Work-Family Council shall be to develop broadly shared understandings of critical work-family issues in the Commonwealth, and to promote through privately funded research, experimentation, and education both responsive public policies and innovative private sector practices.
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- (b) *Council Membership*
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- A member of the Council shall be a person who has demonstrated leadership in seeking innovative, positive solutions to work-family problems. A member shall serve for a term of two years and may be reappointed for one or more terms.
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- (c) *Appointment of Members*
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- The Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate President, and the Caucus of Women Legislators shall each appoint three members in total. Each appointee must be from one of the following categories, and no appointing authority may select more than one individual from the same category:
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- A member of a legislative committee or administrative agency with responsibility for issues of economic development or working family support;
- An employee or manager of a business representing a key sector of the Massachusetts economy;
- An official of an AFL-CIO member union representing public sector or private sector workers;

- A member of a professional association or women's organization; and
- A member of low income advocacy groups or community-based service organizations including both secular and faith-based institutions.
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- The Minority Leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives shall each appoint one member from any of the categories in the preceding paragraph.
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- The head of each of the following agencies, departments and offices shall serve as *ex officio* members of the Council: Department of Business and Technology; Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Office of Children, Youth and Family Services; Department of Elder Affairs; Office of Health Services; MassHealth, Executive Office of Transportation; Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Education; the Human Resources Division; the Information Technology Division, and the new Department of Early Education and Care.
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- The Council shall appoint a chairperson from among the members. The Council may adopt new rules for the appointment of members, and may increase or decrease the number of members.
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- (d) *Duties of the Council*
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- The Council shall meet at least 4 times per year. The Council shall exist for 4 years from the effective date of this section. The Director of Business and Technology may extend the existence of the Council for a further term of one or more years.
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- The council shall appoint an executive director who shall appoint such staff as needed. Staff may seek funds from public and private sources to support the work of the Council.
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- The Council shall select a panel of academic advisers to provide information and guidance on Council activities. An academic adviser shall not receive compensation from the Council but may be reimbursed for customary expenses incident to the advisor's service.
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- The duties of the Council shall include but not be limited to:
 - holding hearings to identify major work-family issues in the Commonwealth;
 - identifying representatives of all groups with important stakes in resolving specific work-family issues and devising processes for bringing the groups together to promote mutual understanding as the basis for coordinated problem-solving;
 - using dialogue and negotiation among stakeholders with differing interests in work-family conflicts to advance the potential for problem solving that supports both workplace productivity and family care;
 - designing and implementing pilot projects as requested in workplaces;
 - proposing public policy solutions to work-family issues;
 - promoting successful policies and practices in both public and private sectors and creating a repository of best practices;
 - providing public education on work-family issues as matters of public, as well as individual concern, and on the need for public policies and private workplace practices that support the well-being of both employers and families;
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- The Council shall send a report to the director of business and technology every two years during the Council's existence. The report shall specify: the groups actively involved in Council meetings and projects; outcomes of research sponsored by the Council; the adoption and results of public policy initiatives; the outcomes of experiments and pilot projects in workplaces; the experience with techniques of multi-

stakeholder dialogue and negotiation; and the purposes and scope of public education projects undertaken.