

AN ACT ESTABLISHING
A MASSACHUSETTS WORK-FAMILY COUNCIL.

Chapter 23A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new section:-

Section 62. 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 responsive public policies and innovative private sector practices.

The Council shall consist of 26 members, 1 of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Business and Technology, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the Director of Department of Labor and Workforce Development, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the President of the Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the Director of MassHealth, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of the Executive Office of Transportation, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the Commissioner of Department of Education, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the Chief Human Resources Officer of the Commonwealth, *ex officio*; 1 of whom shall be the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth, *ex officio*; and 1 of whom shall be the Administrator of the Department of Early Education and Care, *ex officio*; 3 members shall be appointed by the Governor, 3 members shall be appointed by the Senate President, 3 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and 3 members shall be appointed by the Caucus of Women Legislators, 1 member shall be appointed by the

Minority Leader of the Senate, and 1 member shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House. Provided, however, that each appointed member shall be from one of the following categories and no appointing authority shall appoint more than 1 member from the same category:

- 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;
- A member of a women's professional association;
- A member of a low income advocacy group;
- A member of a community-based service organization, including secular and non-secular faith-based institutions.

Members of the Council shall be individuals who have demonstrated leadership in seeking innovative, positive solutions to work-family problems. Members shall serve for a term of two years and may be reappointed.

The Council shall annually elect a chairperson from among its members. The Council may adopt new rules for the appointment of members, and may increase or decrease the number of members.

The Council shall meet at least 4 times annually. The Council shall exist for 4 years from the effective date of this section. The Director of Business and Technology may petition the General Court for legislation to extend the term for one or more years.

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.

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.

The duties of the Council shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- Conduct hearings to identify major work-family issues in the Commonwealth;
- Identify representatives of 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;

- Employ 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;
- Design and implement pilot projects as requested by employers;
- Propose public policy solutions to work-family issues;
- Promote successful policies and practices in the public and private sectors and create a repository of best practices;
- Provide public education on work-family issues and on the need for public policies and private workplace practices that support the well-being of both employers and families.

The Council shall submit a bi-annual written report of its activities to the director of business and technology. Said report shall include information on 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.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.