

THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS GROUP

EMPath (Economic Mobility Pathways)
I Have a Future
Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Massachusetts Association for Community Action
Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Massachusetts Communities Action Network
Massachusetts Workforce Association
SkillWorks: Partners for a Productive Workforce
United Way of Mass Bay

H.1862, An Act relative to workforce data accessibility

S.1187, An Act to make data on workforce development outcomes public and accessible

Sponsors: Representative Josh Cutler and Senator Patricia Jehlen

What Impact Will It Have?

- Data sharing can help workforce development organizations measure the effectiveness of various publicly funded programs by analyzing participant outcomes using wage data; outcomes they would be unable to effectively track themselves or that are already gathered by other parts of the state's workforce/unemployment system.
- For example, a MassHire workforce board may want to measure employment outcomes in order to evaluate how well a publicly funded training program met local employer demand for skilled workers. Gathering this type of data can be difficult and costly, especially months after clients leave training programs. Data sharing between the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA), responsible for collecting employment and wage data, and MassHire makes this evaluation possible.
- As the Commonwealth continues to invest tens of millions of ARPA funds in workforce development programs, it is vital that we improve access the most current and comprehensive data so that we can not only establish critical baselines but be better able to evaluate the progress these investments are making - or not making- in closing equity gaps in our economy.

What This Bill Would Do:

- This legislation would ensure timely access to anonymized wage data from the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) at a regional level so the publicly funded workforce development system can better understand and evaluate employment outcomes of the individuals that it serves.
- It would not require additional reporting requirements from employers. It would also only allow for access to wage data matched to workforce development system participants, not access to all wage data across an entire region.
- Finally, this legislation would create a task force to address the state's workforce data infrastructure with the goal of creating data systems that can illustrate how workforce education and training programs are providing opportunities for sustainable employment across the Commonwealth.

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Printed In-House.