

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 481**

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By Mr. Kennedy of Brockton, petition of Thomas P. Kennedy that vocational-technical training be included in comprehensive education and training programs. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RECOGNIZING VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL LEARNING IN EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT.

1     *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat  
2 its purpose, which is to immediately provide for an appropriate  
3 recognition of vocational-technical learning in educational assess-  
4 ment in the Commonwealth, therefore it is hereby declared to be an  
5 emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the  
6 public convenience.

*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 1D of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out lines  
3 85-93, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following:—  
4     (iii) The “certificate of occupational proficiency” shall be  
5 awarded to students who successfully complete a comprehensive  
6 education and training program in a particular trade or professional  
7 skill area and who have successfully completed an academic assess-  
8 ment tailored to the particular academic objectives of vocational  
9 educational programs. The occupational component of the certificate  
10 of occupational proficiency shall reflect a determination that the  
11 recipient has demonstrated mastery of a core of skills, competencies  
12 and knowledge comparable to that possessed by students of equiva-  
13 lent age entering the particular trade or profession from the most  
14 educationally advanced education systems in the world. The acad-  
15 emic component of the certificate of occupational proficiency shall  
16 be designed to measure the specific academic competencies most  
17 central to the particular trade or professional skill area in which the

18 student has pursued a course of study, and shall take into account the  
19 additional, non-traditional academic accomplishments inherent in a  
20 vocational educational program.

21 The academic and educational components of the certificate of  
22 occupational proficiency shall be developed by the board after con-  
23 sultation with and an opportunity for effective input by local voca-  
24 tional education administrators recommended by the Massachusetts  
25 Association of Vocational Administrators. Separate standards shall  
26 be developed for each particular trade or professional skill area.  
27 Attainment of a certificate of occupational proficiency shall satisfy,  
28 as a condition for high school graduation, the requirements of a com-  
29 petency determination under Clause (i) of this section, provided that  
30 no student enrolled in a program of vocational education shall be  
31 required, as a condition of graduation from high school, to attain  
32 either a competency determination or a certificate of occupational  
33 proficiency until the fourth school year following the promulgation  
34 by the board of the standards for a certificate of occupational profi-  
35 ciency for the particular trade or professional skill area in which the  
36 student has pursued or is pursuing a course of study.