

SENATE NO. 566

AN ACT TO IMPROVE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING INDIVIDUALS

*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 1. The General Court finds that children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing shall be educated
2 in environments that provide opportunities to participate in sports, arts and cultural activities, tutorials,
3 and other extracurricular activities. The General Court also recognizes that workforce development is
4 essential to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and additional assistance shall be provided to aid
5 these individuals in the search for employment throughout the Commonwealth.

6 Section 2.

7 The Operational Services Division in the Executive Office of Administration and Finance shall
8 provide additional funding to Chapter 766 approved private schools for the purpose of providing all
9 students with opportunities to participate in sports, arts and cultural activities, tutoring programs, and
10 other unspecified extracurricular activities.

11 Section 3.

12 The Massachusetts Commission of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing shall be granted additional funding
13 for the purpose of entering into contracts with additional interpreters. The Commission is hereby
14 directed to use these funds to place an interpreter at One-Stop Career Centers throughout the

15 Commonwealth. Interpreters shall be assigned to various centers throughout the state that are
16 accessible by public transportation.