

SENATE NO. 1113

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SELF SUFFICIENCY STANDARD IN THE COMMONWEALTH

*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. Whereas, In today's economy, employers face a shortage of skilled labor;
- 2 Whereas, Lower-wage workers do not earn enough to support their families;
- 3 Whereas, Lack of an adequately prepared workforce can cause employers to turn to workers
4 outside of the Commonwealth;
- 5 Whereas, A skilled labor shortage can have an impact on the economic strength of the
6 Commonwealth; and
- 7 Whereas, The poverty guidelines as measured by the federal government do not adequately
8 reflect the costs of living in Massachusetts;
- 9 Therefore, It shall be the responsibility of the Commonwealth to define a self-sufficiency
10 standard in order to provide a measure of the extent to which the incomes of households in
11 Massachusetts are sufficient to support the costs of living, working, raising a family, and paying
12 taxes in Massachusetts.