

**SENATE . . . . . No. 730**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Walsh, Marian (SEN)**

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a self sufficiency standard in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Walsh, Marian (SEN)	Suffolk and Norfolk
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S01113 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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### 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.