

SENATE No. 209

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Eric P. Lesser

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish an entrepreneur learner's permit program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/12/2019</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>

SENATE No. 209

By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 209) of Eric P. Lesser, Jason M. Lewis, Julian Cyr, Michael O. Moore and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish an entrepreneur learner's permit program. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to establish an entrepreneur learner's permit program.

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. Chapter 40J of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding, after
2 section 6I, the following section:-

3 “Section 6J. (a) The Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation, established in section
4 3 of chapter 40J of the General Laws and doing business as the Massachusetts Technology
5 Collaborative, shall establish and administer a Massachusetts Entrepreneur Learner's Permit
6 Program. The purpose of the program shall be to encourage and assist first-time entrepreneurs
7 and business owners in starting new advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, information
8 services, and green technology businesses by providing reimbursements to such entrepreneurs
9 for any state filing, permitting or licensing fees associated with the formation of such a business
10 in the commonwealth.

11 (b) The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative shall establish an application process
12 and accept applications for participation. Applicants for participation shall apply prior to the
13 formation of the business for which said applicant seeks reimbursement of such fees. The
14 collaborative shall establish criteria for the review and approval of applications, provided that the
15 collaborative shall give priority to female and minority applicants and shall not approve any
16 applicants who are not first-time entrepreneurs and business owners. All reimbursements
17 provided under this section shall be distributed in a manner prescribed by the collaborative.

18 (c) In awarding reimbursements each year beginning in 2019, the collaborative shall
19 award not more than a total of \$100,000 each to first-time entrepreneurs in the western, central,
20 and eastern geographic regions of the commonwealth. Any funds used by the collaborative for
21 reimbursements shall be awarded equally to said geographic regions.

22 (d) On or before March 1 of each year beginning in 2020, the collaborative shall conduct
23 a study and review of the cumulative effectiveness of the Massachusetts Entrepreneur Learner's
24 Permit program. Said study shall include, but not be limited to (i) the number and type of
25 Massachusetts businesses that were formed using the program; (ii) the current status of each
26 business formed in connection with the program; (iii) the number of employees employed by
27 each such business; (iv) the economic impact to the commonwealth from the program; (v) the
28 geographic location of each business formed in connection with the program; (vi) the utility of
29 the program in relation to start-up costs related to forming a business; and (vii) a
30 recommendation as to whether the program should be continued beyond June 30, 2021. Said
31 study shall be submitted annually to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
32 economic development and emerging technologies and the clerks of the house and senate.

33 SECTION 2. Section 6J of said chapter 40J, added by section 1, is hereby repealed.

34 SECTION 3. Section 2 shall take effect on March 1, 2022.