

HOUSE No. 344

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Garrett J. Bradley

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 increase capacity to address the complex needs of students with autism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Garrett J. Bradley</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine E. Canavan</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>

<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Robert F. Fennell</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Dennis A. Rosa</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kevin J. Murphy</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>
<i>John J. Binienda</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>John P. Fresolo</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>

HOUSE No. 344

By Mr. Bradley of Hingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 344) of Garrett J. Bradley and others relative to addressing the needs of students with autism. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
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An Act to increase capacity to address the complex needs of students with autism.

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. Section 38G ½ of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in chapter
2 51 of the Acts of 2012 is hereby amended by inserting the following at the end of the first
3 paragraph:-

4 “Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorders” shall have the same meaning as the
5 most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

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8 SECTION 2. Section 38G ½ of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
9 further amended by inserting the following paragraph at the end of the section:-

10 The board shall provide an endorsement in autism which shall include both coursework
11 and field experience for licensed special education teachers to acquire the competencies
12 necessary to conduct assessments, develop appropriate individualized education programs,
13 provide specially designed instruction and related services, and consult and collaborate with
14 other educators, including general education teachers, in order to meet the unique and complex
15 educational needs of students with autism in the least restrictive environment. Competencies
16 shall also include, but not be limited to, the impact of autism on verbal and nonverbal
17 communication, social interaction, sensory experiences, behaviors, literacy and academic
18 achievement. The requirements for the endorsement in autism, as promulgated by the board, can
19 also be used to satisfy course requirements necessary to obtain a professional license. The board
20 shall promulgate regulations specifying the subject matter knowledge, skills, and competencies

21 required for such endorsement, including requirements to incorporate renewal of the
22 endorsement as part of the individual professional development plan required pursuant to section
23 38G. Said regulations shall also specify components necessary for preparation programs
24 offering an endorsement in autism, which shall be included in the department's process for
25 approving preparation programs.

26 SECTION 3. For one year after the board has promulgated regulations as required
27 under section two, teachers who have previously been employed serving primarily students with
28 autism shall be eligible to receive an autism endorsement, provided that they demonstrate the
29 knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to receive such endorsement, subject to
30 regulations promulgated by the board of elementary and secondary education.

31 SECTION 4. Section 38G of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
32 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 266, after the word "disabilities", the
33 following words:-

34 , including children with autism.

35 SECTION 5. Chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official
36 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following sentence at the end of the sixth paragraph
37 of section 3:-

38 The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team for any child with a diagnosis of
39 autism or autism spectrum disorder, as defined by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and
40 Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, shall include a special education teacher with an
41 endorsement in autism. This section shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

42 SECTION 6. The board of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate the
43 regulations required pursuant to section two on or before September 1, 2014.