

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00153**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Jason M. Lewis*

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 Resolve:

Resolve to fulfill the promise of education reform by ensuring adequate funding for student success.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Middlesex and Essex</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Michael Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Paul Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>

<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Gale D. Candaras</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Michael A. Costello</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Cleon H. Turner</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 00153

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By Mr. Jason M. Lewis of Winchester, petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 00153) of Stephen Kulik and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study issues relative to education. Joint Committee on Education.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

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### **RESOLVE Resolve to fulfill the promise of education reform by ensuring adequate funding for student success**

Resolved,

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by adding the following new section:-

3 Section 94. In order to determine, as a basis for legislative action, the resources needed to  
4 achieve the commonwealth's educational goals, a committee, to be known as the Education  
5 Resource Study Committee, made up of the chairs of the joint committee on education, the  
6 secretary of administration and finance, or her designee, the secretary of the executive office of  
7 education, or her designee, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or his  
8 designee, is hereby authorized to conduct a study to determine the resources necessary to achieve  
9 the commonwealth's educational goals. The committee shall contract with an independent  
10 consultant to conduct an assessment to ascertain the resources and the costs of the resources  
11 needed to provide all students in Massachusetts with the opportunity for a high quality education  
12 to enable them to reach their potential as set forth in the Education Reform Act of 1993.

13 For purposes of its work, the committee and consultant shall have access to all necessary papers,  
14 vouchers, books and records pertaining to the department of elementary and secondary education

15 and to any school district in the commonwealth. The department of elementary and secondary  
16 education shall cooperate with the committee and consultant for any purpose connected to its  
17 work pursuant to this act including, but not limited to, participating in interviews and producing  
18 books, records and documents. School districts and their personnel shall make every effort to  
19 cooperate with reasonable requests of the committee and consultant for any purpose connected to  
20 its work pursuant to this act and to the extent possible shall participate in interviews and  
21 producing books, records and documents. The committee and consultant may request reasonable  
22 assistance from the commissioner of elementary and secondary education and from the  
23 superintendent of any school district. The commissioner shall furnish the committee and  
24 consultant with any relevant information in his possession which is requested by the committee  
25 and consultant. School districts shall endeavor to provide relevant information in their  
26 possession to committee and consultant to the extent possible consistent with the need to  
27 maintain the confidentiality of information in their possession.

28 The committee shall:

29 (1) Prepare a request for proposals for the conduct of a resource study, advertise nationally for  
30 such proposals, evaluate the proposals and contract with an appropriate independent entity or  
31 independent consultants to conduct a professional evaluation of

32 a) the extent of educational and other resources required by school districts so that they are able  
33 to implement fully each of the seven curriculum frameworks and fulfill the goals of the  
34 Education Reform Act and this act, and

35 b) the resources required by the department of elementary and secondary education so that it is  
36 able to fulfill its responsibilities under the provisions of the Education Reform Act. Such  
37 responsibilities shall include providing technical assistance to school districts so that they can  
38 improve the capacity of school districts to implement the curriculum frameworks effectively and  
39 devising instructional strategies which improve learning for diverse student populations

40 (2) Include in its request for proposals the requirements that in conducting its study, the  
41 consultant shall do the following:

42 (a) consider and evaluate all the resources which relate to student learning and educational  
43 opportunity, including, but not limited to: class size; special education programs, including  
44 programs for English language learners; pre-school programs for all 3 and 4 year-olds and full-

45 day kindergarten; additional resources needed to assure educational opportunity for low-income  
46 students; salaries needed to attract and retain high quality professionals; technology; extra-  
47 curricular programs; remedial programs for students at risk of failing to satisfy graduation  
48 requirements; books and other curriculum materials; and equipment for science lab programs.

49 (b) Reexamine the manner in which the Chapter 70 foundation budget is adjusted for inflation,  
50 including, but not limited to, the following: the choice of a price index; the possibility of using  
51 different price indices for different components of the foundation budget(e.g., a health care index  
52 applied to the employee health insurance component); and whether the current 4.5% cap should  
53 be raised or eliminated altogether. The overriding purpose of the re-examination is to ensure that  
54 the inflation adjustment to the foundation budget matches changes in actual education costs.

55 (c) provide the committee with a proposed work plan before beginning the study;

56 (d) interview and consult with representatives of educational professions and other groups  
57 involved in issues of educational policy and finance, including, but not limited to the  
58 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Massachusetts Association of School  
59 Committees, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the American Federation of  
60 Teachers/Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, the Rennie Center for  
61 Education Research and Policy, the Council for Fair School Finance, the Massachusetts Budget  
62 and Policy Center, the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Massachusetts Business Alliance  
63 for Education, , the Massachusetts Parent Teacher Organization, Stand for Children, academics  
64 and researchers involved in educational strategies, and the general public through public hearings  
65 and through such other means as the consultant shall direct;

66 (e) review successful educational programs in schools and school districts with diverse socio-  
67 economic characteristics and racial make-up and assess the possibility of replicating such  
68 programs in other schools and school districts;

69 (f) consider and evaluate opportunities for greater efficiencies and cost savings within and  
70 among school districts, including, but not limited to consolidation of districts, consolidation of  
71 purchasing and other administrative functions, and leveraging online/distance learning  
72 capabilities;

73 (g) file monthly progress reports with the committee outlining the work of the previous month  
74 and the work planned for the upcoming month;

75 (h) after the completion of one-third of the work and again after completion of two-thirds of the  
76 work, participate in a forum with the committee to provide an opportunity for public comment;

77 (i) issue a preliminary report on its work and the cost study and solicit comments, criticisms and  
78 suggestions from professional educators, education administrators and experts in education  
79 policy and finance concerning the report; and

80 (j) deliver a final report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
81 Representatives, and the Joint Committee on Education no later than September 1, 2012.

82 Section 2. A sum of \$600,000 will be appropriated for the design and completion of this study.