

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 01950**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Tom Sannicandro***

*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 promote inclusive transition programs for students with severe disabilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Cynthia S. Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 01950

By Mr. Sannicandro of Ashland, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1950) of O'Day and others relative to transition programs for students with severe disabilities Joint Committee on Education.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to promote inclusive transition programs for students with severe disabilities.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Subject to appropriation the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop  
2 and administer a discretionary grant program to provide monies to school districts and state  
3 public institutions of higher education partnering together to offer inclusive concurrent  
4 enrollment programs for students with disabilities as defined in section 1 of chapter 71B of the  
5 General Laws ages 18 to 22, inclusive; provided, that the grant program shall be limited to said  
6 students who are considered to have severe disabilities and, in the case of students ages 18 and  
7 19, shall be limited to students with severe disabilities who have been unable to achieve the  
8 competency determination necessary to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment  
9 System exam. The goal of the grant program shall be to meet the transition needs of students  
10 with severe disabilities by developing the capacity of school districts, working in partnership  
11 with institutes of higher education, to support college success, participation in student life of the  
12 college community, competitive employment, and provision of a free appropriate public

13 education in the least restrictive environment. The department, in consultation with the  
14 department of higher education, shall develop guidelines to ensure that the grant program meets  
15 this goal and also promotes provision of training and technical assistance for faculty and  
16 personnel in state institutions of higher education.

17 Students with disabilities participating in the grant program shall be offered enrollment in credit  
18 and noncredit courses that include nondisabled students, including enrollment in noncredit  
19 courses and credit bearing courses in audit status for students who may not meet course  
20 prerequisites and requirements, and the partnering school districts will ensure provision of  
21 supports and services necessary to facilitate a student's enrollment.

22 The department, in consultation with the department of higher education, shall develop  
23 strategies and procedures to help sustain and replicate inclusive concurrent enrollment programs  
24 initiated through the department's discretionary grant program including but not limited to:  
25 continued funding for partnerships of institutes of higher education and school districts that have  
26 developed inclusive concurrent enrollment programs in order to sustain the existing programs  
27 and to retain employment specialists to assist students in meeting competitive employment and  
28 other transition-related goals; and adoption of procedures and funding mechanisms to ensure  
29 that new partnerships of institutions of higher education and school districts providing inclusive  
30 concurrent enrollment programs fully utilize the models and expertise developed in existing  
31 partnerships. The department shall develop a mechanism to encourage existing and new  
32 partnerships to expand capacity to respond to individual parents that request an opportunity for  
33 their children to participate in the inclusive concurrent enrollment initiative. Tuition for courses  
34 shall be waived by the institutes of higher education for students enrolled through this grant  
35 program.

36 The department of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with the department of  
37 higher education, shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint  
38 committee on education and the joint committee on higher education on the status of the grant  
39 program annually on February 15.