

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3865**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Edward F. Coppinger*

*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 relative to the educational needs of students whose education was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/24/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>David Biele</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/2/2021</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>4/8/2021</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/13/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3865**

By Mr. Coppinger of Boston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Edward F. Coppinger and others relative to the educational needs of students whose education was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to the educational needs of students whose education was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide additional education for certain students who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*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 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
2 section:-

3 Section 98. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any student  
4 scheduled to graduate at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 academic year from a  
5 district high school or charter school, as defined in section 89, or their parent, legal guardian or  
6 custodian may opt-in to an additional academic year if the student or their parent, legal guardian  
7 or custodian determines that the student’s education has been negatively impacted by the  
8 COVID-19 pandemic.

9 (b) Notwithstanding section 12C of chapter 71B or any other general or special law to the  
10 contrary, a student who will attain the age of 22 during the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 academic  
11 year and has been receiving special education pursuant to said chapter 71B or their parent, legal  
12 guardian or custodian may opt-in to an additional academic year until attaining the age of 23 if  
13 the student or their parent, legal guardian or custodian determines that the student's education  
14 has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

15 SECTION 2. Section 98 of chapter 71 the General Laws is hereby repealed.

16 SECTION 3. The department of elementary and secondary education shall reimburse  
17 municipalities for eligible costs associated with providing additional education services to certain  
18 students whose education was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to  
19 section 98 of chapter 71 of the General Laws for 2 years' following the termination of the  
20 governor's March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency.

21 SECTION 4. Section 2 shall take effect on August 31, 2022.