

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4138**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act relative to teacher preparation and certification.

*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 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 54, the word “valid”.

3           SECTION 2. Said section 38G of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further  
4 amended by striking out, in line 55, the words “for a minimum of one year”.

5           SECTION 3. The department of elementary and secondary education shall convene a  
6 teacher preparation and certification task force, hereinafter called the task force. The task force  
7 shall develop and recommend policies to improve the quality of teacher preparation programs  
8 throughout the commonwealth. The task force shall develop recommendations which shall  
9 include, but not be limited to: (i) strengthening the standards for admission into such preparation  
10 programs, and (ii) increasing the amount of time teacher candidates spend in the classroom and  
11 enhancing such practical experience through the provision of mentorship by trained and qualified  
12 teacher mentors. The task force shall also review the requirements for teacher certification  
13 established under section 38G of chapter 71 of the General Laws, and consider the circumstances

14 under which the passage of the teacher certification test required under said section 38G should  
15 be considered sufficient to meet the certification requirements and/or whether any alternative  
16 training options should be considered sufficient to meet the requirements under said section 38G.

17           SECTION 4. The task force shall file a report with the clerks of the house of  
18 representatives and the senate and the joint committee on education no later than one year after  
19 the enactment of this bill.