

HOUSE No. 414

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia A. Haddad

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:

A Resolve establishing a commission to examine school district capacity and efficient delivery of educational services.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Carlo P. Basile | 1st Suffolk |
| Stephen R. Canessa | 12th Bristol |
| Pam Richardson | 6th Middlesex |
| Martha M. Walz | 8th Suffolk |
| Willie Mae Allen | 6th Suffolk |
| Karyn E. Polito | 11th Worcester |
| Richard J. Ross | 9th Norfolk |
| Jennifer M. Callahan | 18th Worcester |
| Ellen Story | 3rd Hampshire |
| Bruce E. Tarr | First Essex and Middlesex |
| Susan C. Fargo | Third Middlesex |
| Cory Atkins | 14th Middlesex |
| Linda Dean Campbell | 15th Essex |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

RESOLVE

Resolved,

1 **SECTION 1.** The Commonwealth and school districts are under increasingly difficult financial
2 constraints while federal and state governments impose rigid demands on school districts for
3 student achievement. State and local leaders must investigate ways to more efficiently deliver
4 services while maintaining or increasing service quality.

5 **SECTION 2.** There shall be a commission to examine school district capacity and efficient
6 delivery of educational services. The commission shall consist of: the secretary of education, or
7 his designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the department of elementary and
8 secondary education, or his designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts school
9 building authority, or his designee; 1 member appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 member
10 appointed by the senate president; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house; 1
11 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate ; 6 members to be appointed by the
12 secretary of education, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Association of
13 School Superintendents, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Association of
14 School Committees, 1 of whom shall be a representative of either the Massachusetts Teachers
15 Association or the American Federal of Teachers of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a
16 representative of the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, 1 of whom shall be a
17 representative of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and 1 of whom shall be a
18 representative of the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives.

19 **SECTION 3.** The commission shall examine and make recommendations including, but not
20 limited to, the following areas: (1) the optimal school district size; (2) barriers in efficient
21 delivery of educational services; (3) incentives for school districts to regionalize; (4) shared
22 services among neighboring districts; (5) correlations between district size and school district
23 capacity; (6) statutory requirements for school district formation; (7) the optimal number of
24 school districts in the Commonwealth; (8) transitional costs associated with school district
25 regionalization; and (9) increased use of educational collaboratives for shared services among
26 school districts.

27 **SECTION 4.** The commission shall conduct its first meeting not less than 60 days after the
28 effective date of this act. The commission shall submit a report of its findings and
29 recommendations together with legislation, if any, to the clerks of the house of representatives
30 and the senate who shall forward the same to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee

31 on education and the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than
32 200 days after the effective date of this act.