

HOUSE No. 417

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:

An Act Establishing a Charter School Working Group.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Patricia A. Haddad	5th Bristol
Carlo P. Basile	1st Suffolk
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Pam Richardson	6th Middlesex
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex
Christine E. Canavan	10th Plymouth
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Cory Atkins	14th Middlesex
Katherine Clark	32nd Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHARTER SCHOOL WORKING GROUP.

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. There is hereby established a charter school working group to study the financing of, caps
2 imposed upon, and innovations promoted by charter schools authorized under the provisions of chapter
3 71, section 89. The working group shall also study the obstacles which have limited the broader
4 utilization of the Horace Mann model of charter schools. The working group shall report its findings and
5 conclusions to the general court and make recommendations regarding any necessary legislative and
6 regulatory changes which are suggested by those findings and conclusions. The first meeting of the
7 working group shall take place within 30 days after the effective date of this act.

8 SECTION 2. The working group shall consist of: the speaker of the house of representatives, or his
9 designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the president of the senate, or her designee, who shall serve as co-
10 chair; the minority leaders of the house and senate, or their designees,; the house and senate chairs of the
11 joint committee on education; the chairs of the house and senate committee on ways and means; the
12 secretary of administration and finance, or her designee; the secretary of education, or his designee; the
13 Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or his designee; and 2 appointees of the
14 governor.

15 SECTION 3. In carrying out its charge, the working group shall examine, report on, and make
16 recommendations regarding, the following matters:

17 a) the appropriateness of the financing and reimbursement provisions of chapter 71, section 89(nn)
18 and section 89(pp) as a mechanism for the financing of charter schools;

19 b) the extent to which the reimbursement provisions of chapter 71, section 89(pp) are effective at
20 minimizing the adverse financial impact of charter schools on sending school districts while
21 providing sufficient resources for the successful operation of charter schools.

22 c) the appropriateness of the caps and limits imposed in section 89(i) on the number of, enrollments
23 in, percentage of net school spending directed to, and location of charter schools;

24 d) the extent to, and means by, which the dissemination of successful innovation programs called for
25 in section 89(s) has occurred;

26 e) the obstacles to broader utilization of Horace Mann charters as a vehicle to achieve the objectives
27 articulated in section 89(d);

28 SECTION 4. The working group shall solicit advice from such persons and entities as it deems
29 necessary, including the department of education, associations representing superintendents, other
30 educational administrators, teachers, school business officers, municipal officials and charter schools.

31 SECTION 5. The working group shall file a report containing its recommendations, including legislation
32 and regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the joint committee on education and the
33 clerks of the house and senate not later than 6 months following the first meeting of the working group.