

HOUSE No. 464

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 improving student achievement.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 464

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 464) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others relative to improving student achievement in underperforming or chronically underperforming schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to improving student achievement.

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 1J of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (a) and inserting in place thereof
3 the following 2 subsections:-

4 (a) Prior to October 1, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education may, on
5 the basis of student performance data collected pursuant to section 1I, a school or district review
6 performed under section 55A of chapter 15, or regulations adopted by the board of elementary
7 and secondary education, designate 1 or more schools in a school district other than a Horace
8 Mann charter school as a challenge, underperforming or chronically underperforming school.

9 The board shall adopt regulations establishing standards for the commissioner to make such
10 designations on the basis of data collected pursuant to section 1I or information from a school or
11 district review performed under section 55A of chapter 15. Upon the release of the proposed
12 regulations, the board shall file a copy thereof with the clerks of the house of representatives and

13 the senate who shall forward the regulations to the joint committee on education. Within 30 days
14 of the filing, the committee may hold a public hearing and issue a report on the regulations and
15 file the report with the board. The board, pursuant to applicable law, may adopt final regulations
16 making revisions to the proposed regulations as it deems appropriate after consideration of the
17 report and shall forthwith file a copy of the regulations with the chairpersons of the joint
18 committee on education and, not earlier than 30 days from the filing, the board shall file the final
19 regulations with the state secretary. Schools that score in the lowest 20 per cent statewide among
20 schools serving common grade levels on a single measure developed by the department that
21 takes into account student performance data and, beginning on July 1, 2011, improvement in
22 student academic performance, shall be deemed eligible for designation as a challenge,
23 underperforming or chronically underperforming school, provided that any school designated as
24 a challenge school shall be drawn from those schools most likely to be designated as
25 underperforming. Not more than 4 per cent of the total number of public schools may be
26 designated as a challenge, underperforming or chronically underperforming school at any given
27 time. All districts with one or more schools designated as underperforming or chronically
28 underperforming shall, within 120 days of having a school so designated, adopt a personnel
29 evaluation system consistent with the guidelines and regulations promulgated by the board
30 pursuant to section 1B and section 38 of chapter 71 subject to approval by the commissioner. If,
31 after bargaining in good faith for 30 days in fulfillment of any requirements for bargaining under
32 an existing district agreement, the parties are unable to reach an agreement for the adoption of
33 such an evaluation system, the school committee shall adopt the model contract agreement
34 developed by the department, or an alternative system subject to the approval of the
35 commissioner.

36 In adopting regulations allowing the commissioner to designate a school as a challenge,
37 underperforming or chronically underperforming school, the board shall ensure that such
38 regulations take into account multiple indicators of school quality in making such designations,
39 including, but not limited to: student attendance rates, dismissal rates and exclusion rates,
40 promotion rates, graduation rates or the lack of demonstrated significant improvement for 2 or
41 more consecutive years in core academic subjects, either in the aggregate or among subgroups of
42 students, including designations based on special education, low-income, English language
43 proficiency and racial or ethnic classifications.

44 Before a school is designated chronically underperforming by the commissioner, a school
45 must be designated underperforming and fail to improve.

46 A challenge, underperforming or chronically underperforming school described in the
47 following subsections shall operate in accordance with laws regulating other public schools,
48 except as such provisions may conflict with this section or any turnaround plans created
49 thereunder. A student who is enrolled in a school at the time it is designated as a challenge,
50 underperforming or chronically underperforming school shall be able to remain enrolled in the
51 school while remaining a resident of the district if the student chooses to do so.

52 (a $\frac{1}{2}$)(1) Within 15 days of the commissioner designating a school as a challenge school in
53 accordance with the regulations developed pursuant to this section, the school committee and the
54 local teachers union shall meet to negotiate a waiver agreement, if necessary, that identifies any
55 provisions of the collective bargaining agreement that would be subject to a waiver upon a two-
56 thirds vote of the teachers working at least 50 per cent of the time in the designated challenge
57 school. Such waivers shall be designed to permit the implementation of a turnaround plan

58 developed pursuant to this subsection which may include provisions that are inconsistent with
59 the existing collective bargaining agreement. Such negotiations shall be completed within 30
60 days of the commissioner designating a school as a challenge school, and shall not be subject to
61 impasse provisions under section 9 of chapter 150E or unilateral implementation after impasse
62 pursuant to chapter 150E. If the school committee and the union fail to reach an agreement, the
63 process provided in this subsection shall be terminated and the commissioner may designate the
64 school as underperforming pursuant to subsection (a).

65 Within 15 days of the completion of the waiver negotiation process, the superintendent
66 shall convene a local stakeholder group for the purpose of developing a turnaround plan for the
67 school. The local stakeholder group shall include: (i) the superintendent, or a designee; (ii) the
68 chair of the school committee, or a designee; (iii) the president of the local teachers' union, or a
69 designee; (iv) an administrator from the school, who may be the principal, chosen by the
70 superintendent; (v) 2 educators chosen by the faculty of the school, 1 of whom shall be a
71 classroom teacher and 1 of whom shall be a certified non-teaching professional from the school;
72 and (vi) a parent member of the school council established pursuant to section 59C of chapter 71
73 to be chosen by the school council. Meetings of the local stakeholder group shall be open to the
74 public.

75 (2) In creating the turnaround plan, the local stakeholder group shall, to the extent
76 practicable, base the plan on student outcome data, including, but not limited to: (i) data
77 collected pursuant to section 1I or information from a school or district review performed under
78 section 55A of chapter 15; (ii) student achievement on the statewide assessment system approved
79 by the board under section 1I of this chapter; (iii) other measures of student achievement,
80 approved by the commissioner; (iv) student promotion and graduation rates; (v) achievement

81 data for different subgroups of students, including low-income students as defined in chapter 70,
82 limited English-proficient students and students receiving special education; and (vi) student
83 attendance, dismissal rates and exclusion rates.

84 The local stakeholder group shall also consider, in the creation of the turnaround plan,
85 whether to include the following: (i) steps to address social service and health needs of students
86 at the school and their families, to help students arrive and remain at school ready to learn;
87 provided, however, that this may include mental health and substance abuse screening; (ii) steps
88 to improve or expand child welfare services and, as appropriate, law enforcement services in the
89 school community, in order to promote a safe and secure learning environment; (iii) steps to
90 improve workforce development services provided to students and their families at the school, to
91 provide students and families with meaningful employment skills and opportunities; (iv) steps to
92 address achievement gaps for limited English-proficient, special education and low-income
93 students; and (v) notwithstanding chapter 71A, alternative English language learning programs
94 for limited English proficient students; provided that the school committee may retain said
95 programs after the school is no longer designated as a challenge school. The secretaries of health
96 and human services, labor and workforce development, public safety, health and child welfare
97 officials and other applicable state and local social services, shall coordinate with the
98 superintendent to implement the strategies established pursuant to clauses (i) to (iii), inclusive, of
99 this paragraph that are included in a final turnaround plan and shall, subject to appropriation,
100 reasonably support the implementation, which shall be consistent with the requirements of all
101 state and federal law applicable to the relevant programs to be administered. The secretary of
102 education shall assist the superintendent in facilitating the coordination.

103 To assess the school across multiple measures of school performance and student
104 success, the turnaround plan shall include measurable annual goals including, but not limited to:
105 (i) student attendance, dismissal rates and exclusion rates; (ii) student safety and discipline; (iii)
106 student promotion and graduation and dropout rates; (iv) student achievement on the statewide
107 assessment system approved by the board under section 11I; (v) progress in areas of academic
108 underperformance; (vi) progress among subgroups of students, including low-income students as
109 defined by chapter 70, limited English proficient students and students receiving special
110 education; (vii) reduction of achievement gaps among different groups of students; (viii) student
111 acquisition and mastery of twenty-first century skills; (ix) development of college and career
112 readiness, including at the elementary and middle school levels; (x) parent and family
113 engagement; (xi) building a culture of academic success among students; (xii) building a culture
114 of student support and success among school faculty and staff; and (xiii) developmentally
115 appropriate child assessments from pre-kindergarten through third grade, if applicable.

116 (3) The plan shall include provisions intended to maximize the rapid achievement of
117 students at the school by addressing the conditions for school effectiveness as determined by the
118 department. The plan shall identify the specific provisions of the collective bargaining agreement
119 that must be waived in order to implement the plan in accordance with the process set forth in
120 paragraph (1) of this subsection, and shall describe the process and schedule for seeking approval
121 of the plan by the teachers in the school pursuant to paragraph (5) of this subsection.

122 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the turnaround plan may also
123 include provisions that allow the superintendent to: (i) expand, alter or replace the curriculum
124 and program offerings of the school, including the implementation of research-based early
125 literacy programs, early interventions for struggling readers and the teaching of advanced

126 placement courses or other rigorous nationally or internationally recognized courses, if the
127 school does not already have such programs or courses; (ii) reallocate the uses of the existing
128 budget of the school; (iii) provide additional funds to the school from the budget of the district, if
129 the school does not already receive funding from the district at least equal to the average per
130 pupil funding received for students of the same classification and grade level in the district; (iv)
131 provide funds, subject to appropriation, to expand the school day or school year or both of the
132 school; (v) limit, suspend or change 1 or more school district policies or practices that relate to
133 improved student performance and achievement at the school; (vi) for an elementary school, add
134 pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten classes, if the school does not already have such
135 classes; (vii) include a provision of job-embedded professional development for teachers at the
136 school, with an emphasis on strategies that involve teacher input and feedback; (viii) provide for
137 increased opportunities for teacher planning time and collaboration, including professional
138 learning communities, focused on improving student instruction; (ix) establish a plan for
139 professional development for administrators at the school, with an emphasis on strategies that
140 develop leadership skills and use the principles of distributive leadership; (x) redesign and
141 refocus the use of existing teacher preparation periods in the school to ensure that such
142 preparation period is utilized to improve student instruction with an emphasis on improved
143 student performance and achievement at the school; (xi) develop a strategy to search for and
144 study best practices in areas of demonstrated deficiency in the school; (xii) establish strategies to
145 address student attendance, mobility and transiency among the student population of the school;
146 and (xiii) use formative and summative assessments to track student progress and to inform the
147 instructional strategies employed in the classroom. The plan may also include a financial plan for
148 the school based on additional funds to be provided by the district, commonwealth, federal

149 government, private foundations, or other sources to provide additional resources, and may
150 include a process for modifying the plan.

151 For a school with limited English proficient students, the professional development and
152 planning time for teachers and administrators shall include specific strategies and content
153 designed to maximize the rapid academic achievement of limited English proficient students at
154 the school.

155 (4) The local stakeholder group shall submit an initial turnaround plan to the school
156 committee within 30 days of its initial meeting. The school committee may propose
157 modifications to the turnaround plan and shall submit any proposed modifications to the
158 superintendent within 10 days of receiving the initial plan. The superintendent shall consider and
159 may incorporate, alter or reject the proposed modifications submitted by the school committee,
160 and may propose additional modifications to the plan. Within 15 days of receiving any proposed
161 modifications from the school committee, the superintendent shall issue the final turnaround plan
162 for the school; provided, however, that if the plan requires any waiver of provisions of the
163 collective bargaining agreement beyond those authorized by the negotiated agreement pursuant
164 to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the school committee and the local teachers union shall meet
165 to negotiate additional waivers. Such negotiations shall be completed within 15 days and shall
166 not be subject to impasse provisions under section 9 of chapter 150E or unilateral
167 implementation after impasse pursuant to chapter 150E. If the school committee and the union
168 fail to reach an agreement, the process provided in this subsection shall be terminated and the
169 commissioner may designate the school as underperforming pursuant to subsection (a).

170 (5) The superintendent shall submit the final turnaround plan to the school committee and
171 the teachers in the school for approval, and shall forward a copy of said plan to the
172 commissioner. A two-thirds vote of the teachers shall be required to approve the plan and shall
173 be conducted by the local teachers union. A copy of the plan shall be provided to the faculty at
174 least 5 days in advance of an informational meeting which shall be held at least 5 days in
175 advance of the vote. The vote shall be by secret ballot. For the purposes of this vote, a teacher is
176 any person working at least 50 per cent of the time in the designated challenge school under a
177 license listed in 603 CMR 7.04 (3) (a), (b) or (d). A teacher on an approved leave at the time of
178 the election may vote in such election. A teacher who has prior to such vote given notice to leave
179 the school the following year because of: (i) retirement; (ii) resignation; (iii) voluntary transfer;
180 or (iv) any other reason or who has received notice to leave the school the following year
181 because of involuntary transfer, dismissal or any other reason, shall not be eligible to vote to
182 approve the plan. If a final turnaround plan is not approved within the time frame provided in
183 this subsection, the process provided in this subsection shall be terminated and the commissioner
184 may designate the school as underperforming pursuant to subsection (a). Each turnaround plan
185 shall be authorized for a period of not more than 2 years. The superintendent, as applicable, shall
186 be responsible for meeting the goals of the plan.

187 (6) Each school designated by the commissioner as a challenge school pursuant to this
188 subsection shall be reviewed by the superintendent, in consultation with the principal of the
189 school, at least annually. The purpose of the review shall be to determine whether the school has
190 met the annual goals in its turnaround plan and to assess the overall implementation of the plan.
191 The review shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the relevant school committee not later

192 than July 1 for the preceding school year and shall be available to the public on the school
193 district's website.

194 If the superintendent, in consultation with the principal of the school, determines that the
195 school has met the annual performance goals stated in the turnaround plan, the review shall be
196 considered sufficient and the implementation of the turnaround plan shall continue. If the
197 superintendent determines that the school has not met 1 or more goals in the turnaround plan and
198 that the failure to meet the goals may be corrected through reasonable modification of the plan,
199 the superintendent may reconvene the local stakeholder group which may amend the turnaround
200 plan in a manner consistent with the requirements of paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive; provided,
201 however, that if a turnaround plan includes a process for modifying the plan, such modifications
202 shall be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the plan.

203 (7) At a point not more than 2 years after the designation of a school as a challenge
204 school, the commissioner shall determine whether the school has improved sufficiently, requires
205 further improvement or has failed to improve. The commissioner may determine that: (i) the
206 school has improved sufficiently for the designation of the school as a challenge school to be
207 removed; (ii) the school has improved, but has not improved sufficiently for the designation of
208 the school as a challenge school to be removed, in which case the superintendent may, with the
209 approval of the commissioner, reconvene the local stakeholder group for the purposes of
210 renewing the plan or creating a new or modified plan for an additional period of not more than 2
211 years, consistent with the requirements of paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive; or (iii) consistent with
212 the requirements of subsection (a), the school is underperforming.

213 SECTION 2. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
214 inserting after the word “System”, in lines 94, 134, 422 and 461, the following words:- , or any
215 successor statewide assessment system approved by the board pursuant to section 1I.

216 SECTION 3. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
217 amended by inserting after the words “chapter 71A”, in line 115, the following words:- ,
218 provided that the school committee may retain said programs after the school is no longer
219 designated as underperforming.

220 SECTION 4. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
221 amended by inserting after the word “government”, in lines 117 and 445, the following
222 words:—, private foundations,.

223 SECTION 5. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
224 amended by striking out, in line 203, the words “or chronically underperforming”.

225 SECTION 6. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
226 amended by inserting after the word “issues”, in line 272, the following word:- to.

227 SECTION 7. Subsection (j) of said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is
228 hereby amended by inserting after the second sentence the following sentence:— “If a
229 superintendent or external receiver wishes to authorize a turnaround plan, adopted pursuant to
230 subsections (b) to (g) inclusive, with elements that exceed three years in duration those elements
231 must be approved by the commissioner and the commissioner may enter into an agreement with
232 the district to provide for the continuation of those elements under any immediately subsequent
233 turnaround plans adopted pursuant to this section, or during a transitional period under
234 subsection (y).”

235 SECTION 8. Subsection (l) of said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is
236 hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- Until the commissioner makes the
237 determination required under this section, and any new or amended turnaround plan is approved,
238 the terms of the expired turnaround plan shall remain in effect.

239 SECTION 9. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
240 amended by inserting after the words “chapter 71A”, in line 443, the following words:- ,
241 provided that the school committee may retain said programs after the school is no longer
242 designated as chronically underperforming.

243 SECTION 10. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
244 amended by inserting after the word “superintendent”, in line 502, the following words:— or, if
245 one has been appointed pursuant to subsection (r), the school’s receiver.

246 SECTION 11. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
247 amended by striking out, in line 524, the word “commissioner” and inserting in place thereof the
248 following words:- superintendent or, if one has been appointed pursuant to subsection (r), the
249 school’s receiver.

250 SECTION 12. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
251 amended by striking out, in line 525, the figure “(7)” and inserting in place thereof the following
252 figure:- (8).

253 SECTION 13. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
254 amended by striking out, in line 533, the words “underperforming or”.

255 SECTION 14. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
256 amended by striking out, in line 536, the words “commissioner or superintendent” and inserting
257 in place thereof the following words:- superintendent or receiver.

258 SECTION 15. Subsection (s) of said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is
259 hereby amended by adding the following 2 sentences:- Following the annual appropriation of the
260 school district's operating budget, the amount approved for the operation of each chronically
261 underperforming school shall be available for expenditure by the superintendent or the external
262 receiver for any lawful purpose. A chronically underperforming school shall not expend or incur
263 obligations in excess of its budget; provided, however, that a chronically underperforming school
264 may spend federal and state grants and other funds received independently of its operating
265 budget without approval from the school committee or by the superintendent if a receiver has
266 been appointed.

267 SECTION 16. Subsection (t) of said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is
268 hereby amended by inserting after the second sentence the following sentence:—“The
269 commissioner may approve elements of a turnaround plan that exceed three years in duration and
270 may enter into an agreement with the district to provide for the continuation of those elements
271 under any immediately subsequent turnaround plans adopted pursuant to this section.”

272 SECTION 17. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
273 amended by striking out subsection (y) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

274 (y) The board of elementary and secondary education shall adopt regulations regarding:
275 (1) the conditions under which a challenge, underperforming or chronically underperforming
276 school shall no longer be designated as a challenge, underperforming or chronically

277 underperforming school; and (2) the transfer of the operation of an underperforming or a
278 chronically underperforming school from a superintendent or an external receiver, as applicable,
279 to the school committee. The regulations shall include provisions to allow a school to retain
280 measures adopted in a turnaround plan for a transitional period if, in the judgment of the
281 commissioner, the measures would contribute to the continued improvement of the school. Such
282 regulations shall also include provisions that clearly identify the conditions under which such a
283 transitional period shall end and the powers granted to the commissioner and board under this
284 section shall cease to apply to a school previously designated as underperforming or chronically
285 underperforming.

286 SECTION 18. Said section 1J of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
287 amended by striking out, in line 714, the word “underperforming” and inserting in place thereof
288 the following words:—challenge, underperforming.

289 SECTION 19. The second paragraph of subsection (a) of section 1K of said chapter 69,
290 as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:—At the request of the
291 commissioner, the secretary of administration and finance shall appoint a chief procurement
292 officer for a district designated as chronically underperforming.

293 SECTION 20. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
294 amended by striking out, in line 42, the word “an” and inserting in place thereof the following
295 word:- a.

296 SECTION 21. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
297 amended by inserting after the word “System”, in lines 85 and 124, the following words:—, or
298 any successor statewide assessment system approved by the board pursuant to section 1I.

299 SECTION 22. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
300 amended by inserting after the words “chapter 71A”, in line 106, the following words:- ,
301 provided that the school committee may retain said programs after the district is no longer
302 designated as chronically underperforming.

303 SECTION 23. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
304 amended by striking out, in line 114, the word “an” and inserting in place thereof the following
305 word:- a.

306 SECTION 24. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
307 amended by striking out, in line 163, the words “reapplications. turnaround plan” and inserting in
308 place thereof the following word:- reapplications.

309 SECTION 25. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
310 amended by striking out, in lines 184 and 218, the word “commissioner” and inserting in place
311 thereof, in each instance, the following word:- receiver.

312 SECTION 26. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
313 amended by striking out, in line 196, the word “commissioner/superintendent” and inserting in
314 place thereof the following word:- receiver.

315 SECTION 27. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
316 amended by striking out, in line 217, the word “if” and inserting in place thereof the following
317 word:- If.

318 SECTION 28. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
319 amended by striking out, in lines 268 and 277, the words “subsection (g)” and inserting in place
320 thereof, in each instance, the following words:- subsection (h).

321 SECTION 29. Subsection (f) of said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is
322 hereby further amended by inserting after the second sentence the following sentence:—“The
323 commissioner may approve elements of a turnaround plan that exceed three years in duration and
324 may enter into an agreement with the district to provide for the continuation of those elements
325 under any immediately subsequent turnaround plans adopted pursuant to this section.”

326 SECTION 30. Said section 1K of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further
327 amended by striking out, in line 328, the words “subsection (h)” and inserting in place thereof
328 the following words:- subsection (i).

329 SECTION 31. Section 15 of chapter 70B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
330 amended by striking out, in line 62, the word “may” and inserting in place thereof the following
331 word:- shall.

332 SECTION 32. Said section 15 of said chapter 70B, as so appearing, is hereby further
333 amended by inserting after the word “lease”, in line 64, the following words:- in whole or in part.

334 SECTION 33. Subsection (c) of section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so
335 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof
336 the following 4 paragraphs:-

337 A Horace Mann charter school shall be a public school or part of a public school operated
338 under a charter approved by the school committee in the district in which the school is located

339 and, in the case of a Horace Mann I charter school, also by the local collective bargaining unit in
340 which the school is located; provided, however, that all charters shall be granted by the board of
341 elementary and secondary education. A Horace Mann charter school shall be operated and
342 managed by a board of trustees independent of the school committee which approved the school.
343 The board of trustees may include a member of the school committee.

344 A Horace Mann I charter school shall be a new school operated under a charter approved
345 by the school committee and the local collective bargaining unit in the district in which the
346 school is located. A Horace Mann I charter school shall have a memorandum of understanding
347 with the school committee of the district in which the charter school is located that defines the
348 services and facilities to be provided by the district to the charter school and states the funding of
349 the charter school by the district.

350 A Horace Mann II charter school shall be a conversion of an existing public school
351 operated under a charter approved by the school committee in the district in which the school is
352 located. A Horace Mann II charter school shall not require approval of the local collective
353 bargaining unit, but shall require a memorandum of understanding with the local collective
354 bargaining unit and the school committee of the district in which the charter school is located
355 regarding any waivers to applicable collective bargaining agreements; provided, that the
356 memorandum of understanding shall be approved by a majority of the school faculty; and
357 provided, further, that Horace Mann II charter schools shall not count towards the maximum
358 number of Horace Mann charter schools stated in paragraph (1) of subsection (i). A vote by the
359 school faculty shall be held and finalized within 30 days of submission of the charter school
360 application to the board of elementary and secondary education. School faculty who have prior
361 to such vote given notice to leave the school the following year because of: (i) retirement; (ii)

362 resignation; (iii) voluntary transfer; or (iv) any other reason or who has received notice to leave
363 the school the following year because of involuntary transfer, dismissal or any other reason, shall
364 not be eligible to vote to approve the memorandum of understanding.

365 A Horace Mann III charter school shall be a new school operated under a charter
366 approved by the school committee in the district in which the school is located. A Horace Mann
367 III charter school shall not require approval of the local collective bargaining unit; provided,
368 however, that after the charter for a Horace Mann III charter school has been granted by the
369 board, the school shall develop a memorandum of understanding with the school committee of
370 the district in which the charter school is located and the local collective bargaining unit
371 regarding any waivers to applicable collective bargaining agreements; provided, further, that if
372 an agreement is not reached on the memorandum of understanding at least 30 days before the
373 scheduled opening of the school, the charter school shall operate under the terms of its charter
374 until an agreement is reached.

375 SECTION 34. Paragraph (1) of subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so
376 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the
377 following paragraph:-

378 Not more than 120 charter schools shall be allowed to operate in the commonwealth at
379 any time, excluding those approved pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection; provided,
380 however, that of the 120 charter schools, not more than 48 shall be Horace Mann charter schools
381 and not more than 72 shall be commonwealth charter schools. Of the 48 Horace Mann charter
382 schools, not more than 14 shall be Horace Mann III charter schools; provided, further, that not
383 less than 4 of the 14 Horace Mann III charter schools shall be located in a municipality with

384 more than 500,000 residents. The board shall not approve a new commonwealth charter school in
385 any community with a population of less than 30,000 as determined by the most recent United
386 States Census estimate, unless it is a regional charter school.

387 SECTION 35. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
388 amended by inserting after the word “year”, in line 174, the following words:- ; provided that
389 applications to establish a Horace Mann III charter school may be submitted and granted at any
390 time during the year.

391 SECTION 36. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
392 amended by striking out, in line 179, the words “shall not exceed 18” and inserting in place
393 thereof the following words:- may exceed 9.

394 SECTION 37. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
395 amended by striking out, in lines 184 and 185, the words “9 per cent of the school district’s net
396 school spending or 18 per cent for those districts that qualify under said paragraph (3)” and
397 inserting in place thereof the following words:- the net school spending cap in such district.

398 SECTION 38. Paragraph (2) of subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so
399 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting in place thereof the
400 following sentence:- In approving new commonwealth charters in any year, the board shall give
401 priority to applications for charter schools located in districts where overall student performance
402 on the statewide assessment system approved by the board under section 11 of chapter 69 is in
403 the lowest 10 per cent statewide in the 2 years preceding the charter application; provided that
404 such applications meet the criteria for approval as prescribed by the board pursuant to this
405 section.

406 SECTION 39. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
407 inserting after the word “performance”, in line 204, the following words:- and growth.

408 SECTION 40. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
409 amended by inserting after the word “per cent”, in line 208, the following words:-; provided,
410 however, that for a district qualifying under this paragraph, the board may approve an application
411 for the establishment or expansion of a commonwealth charter school that has the effect of
412 increasing the district’s total charter tuition payments above 18 per cent of the district’s net
413 school spending if the charter applicant meets 1 or more of the criteria described in paragraph
414 (4); and provided, further that no public school district’s total charter tuition payments to
415 commonwealth charter schools shall exceed 23 per cent of said district’s net school spending.

416 SECTION 41. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
417 amended by striking out, in line 239, the word “or” and inserting in place thereof the following
418 word:- and.

419 SECTION 42. Subsection (i) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is
420 hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

421 (4) For a district qualifying under paragraph (3) whose charter school tuition payments
422 exceed 18 per cent of the school district’s net school spending, the board shall only approve an
423 application for the establishment or expansion of a commonwealth charter school that meets 1 or
424 more of the following criteria:

425 (i) the school enrolls students using an opt-out admissions lottery process that
426 automatically includes the names of all eligible students, without any required application
427 process for the school; or

428 (ii) the school’s primary purpose is to establish alternative education programs designed
429 to serve at-risk students or students who have dropped out of school; provided that, for the
430 purposes of this section, the term “at-risk student” shall mean any student enrolled in grades
431 seven through twelve who is identified as “at-risk” according to the early warning indicator
432 index system, or any successor data collection and tracking system, developed by the department
433 to identify and track students at risk of not graduating on time; and provided, further, that not
434 less than 75 per cent of students enrolled at the school shall qualify as at-risk students or students
435 who have dropped out of school.

436 The board shall give preference to applications for expansions under clause (i) or clause
437 (ii) of this paragraph for existing charter schools that have an average 3-year student attrition rate
438 that is equal to or less than the average 3-year student attrition rate of the schools within the
439 sending district to be determined by the department or for existing charter schools that have
440 successfully established collaborative relationships with their sending districts on the sharing of
441 best practices. If an existing charter school applying for an expansion under clause (i) or clause
442 (ii) of this paragraph has an average 3-year student attrition rate that is greater than the average
443 3-year student attrition rate of the schools within the sending district, such charter school shall
444 include in its application for expansion a plan to reduce its attrition rates. Existing charter
445 schools that apply for an expansion under clause (i) or clause (ii) of this paragraph shall be
446 required to meet the criteria set forth in said clauses through a phased-in process established by
447 the board. Existing Horace Mann or commonwealth charter schools that apply for an expansion
448 under clause (i) and are approved for new seats in higher grades than they currently serve may
449 assign students already enrolled in the school to those new seats. Nothing in this section shall
450 prevent the board from approving other Horace Mann or commonwealth charter school

451 applications that meet the criteria in clause (i) or clause (ii) of this paragraph in districts where
452 the net school spending cap has not been reached.

453 SECTION 43. Subsection (m) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is
454 hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:—

455 For a charter school qualifying under clause (i) of paragraph (4) of subsection (i), all
456 students who would be eligible to attend the school under the district’s assignment policy if it
457 were a district school, shall be deemed eligible for enrollment in said charter school without any
458 application process required for admittance to the school. An admissions lottery, including the
459 names of all eligible students, shall be held to fill all of the spaces in that school. In the event that
460 the parents or guardians of a student who is selected for admission to the charter school through
461 the lottery determine not to enroll the student in the charter school, then the charter school shall
462 fill that enrollment space with a student from the waiting list maintained pursuant to this
463 subsection. Parents or guardians of a student may elect for that student to not participate in such
464 enrollment lottery.

465 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (n), charter schools qualifying under clause
466 (i) of said paragraph (4) of said subsection (i) shall attempt to fill vacant seats throughout the
467 school year for all grade levels offered by the school.

468 SECTION 44. Subsection (n) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is
469 hereby amended by inserting after the second paragraph the following 6 paragraphs:-

470 Charter schools qualifying under clause (ii) of paragraph (4) of subsection (i) may offer
471 enrollment preferences to at-risk students or students who have dropped out of school. In charter
472 schools that offer such enrollment preferences, priority for enrollment shall be given first to at-

473 risk students or students who have dropped out of school, and second to other students who
474 reside within the city or town in which the charter school is located but are not at-risk students or
475 students who have dropped out of school. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (m) or
476 any general or special law to the contrary, a charter school qualifying under clause (ii) of said
477 paragraph (4) of said subsection (i) may limit admissions to students who qualify as at-risk
478 students or students who have dropped out of school.

479 Subject to approval by the board, school districts or municipalities that rent classroom
480 space to commonwealth charter schools under lease agreements with terms of at least 10 years
481 may require such schools to offer enrollment preferences to students who reside in a specific
482 geographical area in which such school buildings are located as a condition of such lease
483 agreements; provided, however, that within this geographical preference area, the percentage of
484 students who qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program is equal to or higher than the
485 district's overall percentage of students who qualify for this program.

486 Subject to approval by the board, commonwealth or Horace Mann charter schools may
487 voluntarily offer enrollment preferences to students who reside in a specific geographical area
488 within the district in which the school is located; provided, however, that within this
489 geographical preference area, the percentage of students who qualify for the free or reduced price
490 lunch program is equal to or higher than the district's overall percentage of students who qualify
491 for this program.

492 In addition to providing the information pursuant to subsection (e), any charter school
493 that offers geographical enrollment preferences shall include in its application for approval: (i) a
494 definition of the geographical area for which it will offer an enrollment preference; (ii) an

495 explanation of how this preference will support the mission of the charter school and the
496 academic performance of its students; (iii) evidence that within this geographical area there
497 resides an equal or higher percentage of low-income students, as measured by qualification for
498 the free or reduced price lunch program, as the district as a whole; and (iv) an explanation of
499 how the charter school will target its recruitment and retention efforts for students within this
500 geographical area. When any charter school that chooses to offer a geographical preference seeks
501 charter renewal and intends to continue applying the geographical preference, the board shall
502 consider whether the preference area continues to support the mission of the charter school and
503 the academic performance of its students, as well as whether the preference area continues to
504 serve an adequate percentage of low-income students to qualify as a geographical preference
505 area under this subsection.

506 In commonwealth charter schools that offer geographical enrollment preferences,
507 students who reside within the geographical preference area shall have priority for enrollment in
508 any open seats over students who reside in the city or town in which the charter school is located
509 but outside of the geographical preference area. In Horace Mann charter schools that offer
510 geographical enrollment preferences, priority for enrollment shall be given first to students
511 actually enrolled in the school on the date the application is filed with the board and their
512 siblings; second, to students who reside within the geographical preference area and are enrolled
513 in the public schools of the district where the Horace Mann charter school is to be located; third,
514 to other students who reside within the geographical preference area; fourth, to other students
515 enrolled in the public schools of the district where the Horace Mann charter school is to be
516 located but who reside outside of the geographical preference area; and fifth, to other students

517 who reside outside of the geographical preference area but within the city or town in which the
518 charter school is located.

519 Subject to approval by the board, charter schools located within the same municipality
520 may voluntarily establish a common lottery, which may provide student applicants with a single
521 offer for admission.

522 SECTION 45. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
523 amended by inserting after the word “vacant”, in line 378, the following word:-seats.

524 SECTION 46. The fifth paragraph of said subsection (n) of said section 89 of said chapter
525 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence.

526 SECTION 47. The sixth paragraph of said subsection (n) of said section 89 of said
527 chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the first 2 sentences and inserting
528 in place thereof the following 2 sentences:— The names of students who entered the lottery but
529 did not gain admission shall be maintained on a waitlist or waitpool, which shall be forwarded to
530 the department on or before June 1 in the year in which the lottery is held, and which shall be
531 updated on or before December 1 of said year. In addition to the names of students, the school
532 shall supply such other information as the department deems necessary.

533 SECTION 48. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
534 amended by striking out, in line 411, the words “and 37H¹/₂” and inserting in place thereof the
535 following words:- , 37H¹/₂, and 37H³/₄.

536 SECTION 49. The first paragraph of subsection (dd) of said section 89 of said chapter
537 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place

538 thereof the following sentence:- The board shall develop procedures and guidelines for
539 revocation, amendment, and renewal of a school's charter; provided, however, that an
540 amendment or renewal of a charter for a Horace Mann charter school shall be subject to approval
541 by majority vote of the school committee and local collective bargaining unit in the district
542 where said charter school is located only to the extent that its initial charter required such
543 approval; and provided, further, that a commonwealth charter shall not be renewed unless the
544 board of trustees of the charter school has documented in a manner approved by the board that
545 said commonwealth charter school has provided models for replication and best practices to the
546 commissioner and to other public schools in the district where the charter school is located.

547 SECTION 50. Subsection (kk) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is
548 hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 2
549 sentences:- The commissioner shall also collect attrition data, including, but not limited to, the
550 number of students leaving each charter school and the reasons for leaving, pursuant to
551 regulations promulgated by the board. The commissioner shall make said data publicly available
552 online on an annual basis on or before December 1 and may file said data annually with the
553 clerks of the house and senate and the joint committee on education on or before December 1.

554 SECTION 51. Beginning in 2016, the commissioner of elementary and secondary
555 education shall comply with the October 1 deadline for making designations pursuant to
556 subsection (a) of section 1J of chapter 69 of the General Laws.

557 SECTION 52. The board of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules
558 and regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

559 SECTION 53. For the school districts qualifying under paragraph (3) of subsection (i) of
560 section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws in which net school spending on charter school
561 tuition does not exceed 23 per cent, the following shall apply: (1) in fiscal year 2018, a public
562 school district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools shall be
563 limited to 19 per cent of the district's net school spending; (2) in fiscal year 2019, a public school
564 district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools shall be limited
565 to 20 per cent of the district's net school spending; (3) in fiscal year 2020, a public school
566 district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools shall be limited
567 to 21 per cent of the district's net school spending; (4) in fiscal year 2021, a public school
568 district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools shall be limited
569 to 22 per cent of the district's net school spending; and (5) in fiscal year 2022, a public school
570 district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools shall be limited
571 to 23 per cent of the district's net school spending.

572 SECTION 54. (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall convene a
573 working group on charter school transportation within 30 days of the effective date of this act.
574 The working group shall include, but not be limited to: the commissioner of elementary and
575 secondary education, or a designee, who shall serve as chair of the working group; 3
576 representatives from commonwealth charter schools, 1 of whom shall be from a charter school
577 located in a municipality with more than 500,000 residents, 1 of whom shall be from a charter
578 school located in a municipality with less than 100,000 residents and 1 of whom shall be from a
579 regional charter school; and 3 representatives from school districts that provide transportation to
580 1 or more commonwealth charter schools, 1 of whom shall be from a municipality with more
581 than 500,000 residents, 1 of whom shall be from a municipality with less than 100,000 residents

582 and 1 of whom shall be from a municipality that provides transportation to 1 or more regional
583 charter schools.

584 (b) The working group shall: (i) review current patterns and approaches to providing
585 transportation to commonwealth charter schools in districts across the commonwealth; (ii) assess
586 the financial impacts of charter school student transportation patterns on district finances; (iii)
587 propose changes to improve efficiency; and (iv) identify any statutory modifications necessary to
588 make such changes. The working group shall issue a final report containing its findings and
589 recommendations within 6 months of the effective date of this act. Said report shall be submitted
590 to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, who shall forward the report to the chairs
591 of the joint committee on education and the senate and house committees on ways and means.