

SENATE No. 00231

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

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:
<i>Karen E. Spilka</i>	<i>Second Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

SENATE No. 00231

By Ms. Spilka, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 231) of Walsh, Eldridge, Dykema and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a charter school working group [Joint Committee on Education].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ SENATE
□ , NO. 272 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

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

9 SECTION 2. The working group shall consist of: the speaker of the house of
10 representatives, or his designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the president of the senate, or his
11 designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the minority leaders of the house and senate, or their
12 designees; the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education; the chairs of the
13 house and senate committee on ways and means; the secretary of administration and finance, or
14 his designee; 3 appointees of the Governor, one on which shall be a superintendent of schools;
15 and the Secretary of Education, or his designee.

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

18 (a) the appropriateness of the financing and reimbursement provisions of subsections (ff) and
19 (gg) of section 89 of chapter 71 as a mechanism for the financing of charter schools;

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

23 (c) the appropriateness of the caps and limits imposed in subsection (i) of section 89 of chapter
24 71 on the number of, enrollments in, percentage of net school spending directed to, and location
25 of charter schools;

26 (d) the extent to, and means by, which the dissemination of successful innovation programs
27 called for in subsection (r) of section 89 of chapter 71 has occurred;

28 (e) the obstacles to broader utilization of Horace Mann charters as a vehicle to achieve the
29 objectives articulated in subsection (b) of section 89(b) of chapter 71.

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

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