

SENATE No. 2374

Senate March 22, 2018, – Text of the Senate Bill relative to financial literacy in schools (being the text of Senate document number 2343, printed as amended)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

An Act relative to financial literacy in schools.

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. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 1P the following section:-

3 Section 1Q. (a) The department shall establish standards for students in kindergarten to
4 grade 12, inclusive, on personal financial literacy to equip students with the knowledge and skills
5 needed to become self-supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding
6 personal finances. The standards shall include, but not be limited to: (i) understanding loans; (ii)
7 borrowing money; (iii) interest and interest accrual; (iv) credit card debt; (v) online commerce;
8 (vi) rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home; (vii) saving, investing and planning
9 for retirement; (viii) banking and financial services; (ix) balancing a checkbook; (x) state and
10 federal taxes; (xi) charitable giving; (xii) evaluating media content, including online content, that
11 relates to personal finance matters; (xiii) saving, investing and planning for higher education or
12 professional training; and (xiv) understanding the impact of cognitive biases on financial
13 decision making.

14 (b) A school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school, or
15 collaborative school may incorporate the personal financial literacy standards established under
16 subsection (a) into existing mathematics, social sciences, technology, business or other curricula.

17 (c) The department shall make resources publicly available to assist in the selection of
18 materials and curriculum on personal financial literacy. The department shall identify and offer
19 information on resources for professional development activities and instruction on personal
20 financial literacy. The department shall consult with experts in the field of behavioral science or
21 related disciplines to incorporate behavioral science in the development and identification of
22 effective resources, materials and methods of instruction on personal financial literacy. The
23 department may consult with private, non-profit or government stakeholders to identify such
24 resources.

25 (d) The department may apply for federal, state or other funding, including funding
26 available through the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund in section 35QQ of chapter 10.

27 SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
28 advisory committee established under subsection (b) of section 200 of chapter 139 of the acts of
29 2012 is hereby revived and continued to December 31, 2022. The advisory committee shall, in
30 consultation with the department of elementary and secondary education and individuals with
31 relevant experience, including representatives from insurance and investment firms, real estate
32 firms, consumer protection advocates and bankruptcy attorneys, track and evaluate the
33 development and implementation of standards on personal financial literacy.

34 (b) The advisory committee shall conduct a study on: (i) programs on financial literacy
35 being offered in the commonwealth to students in kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, in the

36 2018-2019 academic year; and (ii) the cost of these programs to individual schools and school
37 districts. The advisory committee shall submit the results of this study in a report to the clerks of
38 the senate and the house of representatives and the chairs of the joint committee on education not
39 later than August 31, 2019.

40 (c) For 3 years after submitting the results of the study under subsection (b), the advisory
41 committee shall annually submit a report on best practices and recommended improvements to
42 the personal financial literacy standards. Such report shall be submitted to the clerks of the
43 senate and the house of representatives and the chairs of the joint committee on education not
44 later than December 31.

45 SECTION 3. The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish the
46 standards required by section 1Q of chapter 69 of the General Laws before the start of the 2019-
47 2020 academic year.