

HOUSE No. 153

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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:

Resolve to fulfill the promise of education reform by ensuring adequate funding for student success.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> [District] <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Middlesex and Essex</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> [District] <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>

<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Gale D. Candaras</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>[District]</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Michael A. Costello</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>[District]</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Cleon H. Turner</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>[District]</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 153

By Mr. Lewis of Winchester, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 153) of Jason M. Lewis and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study issues relative to education. [COMMITTEE].

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Resolve to fulfill the promise of education reform by ensuring adequate funding for student success.

1 Resolved, SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following new section:-

3 Section 94. In order to determine, as a basis for legislative action, the resources needed
4 to achieve the commonwealth’s educational goals, a committee, to be known as the Education
5 Resource Study Committee, made up of the chairs of the joint committee on education, the
6 secretary of administration and finance, or her designee, the secretary of the executive office of
7 education, or her designee, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or his
8 designee, is hereby authorized to conduct a study to determine the resources necessary to achieve
9 the commonwealth’s educational goals. The committee shall contract with an independent
10 consultant to conduct an assessment to ascertain the resources and the costs of the resources
11 needed to provide all students in Massachusetts with the opportunity for a high quality education
12 to enable them to reach their potential as set forth in the Education Reform Act of 1993.

13 For purposes of its work, the committee and consultant shall have access to all necessary
14 papers, vouchers, books and records pertaining to the department of elementary and secondary
15 education and to any school district in the commonwealth. The department of elementary and
16 secondary education shall cooperate with the committee and consultant for any purpose
17 connected to its work pursuant to this act including, but not limited to, participating in interviews
18 and producing books, records and documents. School districts and their personnel shall make
19 every effort to cooperate with reasonable requests of the committee and consultant for any
20 purpose connected to its work pursuant to this act and to the extent possible shall participate in
21 interviews and producing books, records and documents. The committee and consultant may
22 request reasonable assistance from the commissioner of elementary and secondary education and
23 from the superintendent of any school district. The commissioner shall furnish the committee
24 and consultant with any relevant information in his possession which is requested by the
25 committee and consultant. School districts shall endeavor to provide relevant information in

26 their possession to committee and consultant to the extent possible consistent with the need to
27 maintain the confidentiality of information in their possession.

28 The committee shall:

29 (1) Prepare a request for proposals for the conduct of a resource study, advertise
30 nationally for such proposals, evaluate the proposals and contract with an appropriate
31 independent entity or independent consultants to conduct a professional evaluation of

32 a) the extent of educational and other resources required by school districts so that they
33 are able to implement fully each of the seven curriculum frameworks and fulfill the goals of the
34 Education Reform Act and this act, and

35 b) the resources required by the department of elementary and secondary education so
36 that it is able to fulfill its responsibilities under the provisions of the Education Reform Act. Such
37 responsibilities shall include providing technical assistance to school districts so that they can
38 improve the capacity of school districts to implement the curriculum frameworks effectively and
39 devising instructional strategies which improve learning for diverse student populations

40 (2) Include in its request for proposals the requirements that in conducting its study, the
41 consultant shall do the following:

42 (a) consider and evaluate all the resources which relate to student learning and
43 educational opportunity, including, but not limited to: class size; special education programs,
44 including programs for English language learners; pre-school programs for all 3 and 4 year-olds
45 and full-day kindergarten; additional resources needed to assure educational opportunity for low-
46 income students; salaries needed to attract and retain high quality professionals; technology;
47 extra-curricular programs; remedial programs for students at risk of failing to satisfy graduation
48 requirements; books and other curriculum materials; and equipment for science lab programs.

49 (b) Reexamine the manner in which the Chapter 70 foundation budget is adjusted for
50 inflation, including, but not limited to, the following: the choice of a price index; the possibility
51 of using different price indices for different components of the foundation budget(e.g., a health
52 care index applied to the employee health insurance component); and whether the current 4.5%
53 cap should be raised or eliminated altogether. The overriding purpose of the re-examination is to
54 ensure that the inflation adjustment to the foundation budget matches changes in actual education
55 costs.

56 (c) provide the committee with a proposed work plan before beginning the study;

57 (d) interview and consult with representatives of educational professions and other
58 groups involved in issues of educational policy and finance, including, but not limited to the
59 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Massachusetts Association of School
60 Committees, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the American Federation of

61 Teachers/Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, the Rennie Center for
62 Education Research and Policy, the Council for Fair School Finance, the Massachusetts Budget
63 and Policy Center, the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Massachusetts Business Alliance
64 for Education, , the Massachusetts Parent Teacher Organization, Stand for Children, academics
65 and researchers involved in educational strategies, and the general public through public hearings
66 and through such other means as the consultant shall direct;

67 (e) review successful educational programs in schools and school districts with diverse
68 socio-economic characteristics and racial make-up and assess the possibility of replicating such
69 programs in other schools and school districts;

70 (f) consider and evaluate opportunities for greater efficiencies and cost savings within
71 and among school districts, including, but not limited to consolidation of districts, consolidation
72 of purchasing and other administrative functions, and leveraging online/distance learning
73 capabilities;

74 (g) file monthly progress reports with the committee outlining the work of the previous
75 month and the work planned for the upcoming month;

76 (h) after the completion of one-third of the work and again after completion of two-thirds
77 of the work, participate in a forum with the committee to provide an opportunity for public
78 comment;

79 (i) issue a preliminary report on its work and the cost study and solicit comments,
80 criticisms and suggestions from professional educators, education administrators and experts in
81 education policy and finance concerning the report; and

82 (j) deliver a final report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
83 Representatives, and the Joint Committee on Education no later than September 1, 2012.

84 Section 2. A sum of \$600,000 will be appropriated for the design and completion of this
85 study.