HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1032 FILED ON: 1/15/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 524

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Martha M. Walz

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:

An Act raising the school dropout age.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Martha M. Walz	*8th Suffolk*
Ruth B. Balser	*12th Middlesex*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
Christopher G. Fallon	*33rd Middlesex*
Barry R. Finegold	*Second Essex and Middlesex*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*
Denise Andrews	*2nd Franklin*
Gloria L. Fox	*7th Suffolk*
David M. Rogers	*24th Middlesex*
Michael R. Knapik	*Second Hampden and Hampshire*
Michael O. Moore	*Second Worcester*
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*
James J. O'Day	*14th Worcester*
Linda Dorcena Forry	*12th Suffolk*
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	*34th Middlesex*
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	*10th Hampden*
Gale D. Candaras	*First Hampden and Hampshire*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 524

By Ms. Walz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 524) of Martha M. Walz and others for legislation to raise the school dropout age. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act raising the school dropout age.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to increase the number of students in the Commonwealth who graduate from high school, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1B of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “attendance”, in line 113, the following words:- ; provided, however, that all children under the age of 16 and 6 months shall be required to attend school if they have not graduated from high school.

SECTION 2. Section 1B of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as amended by section 1, is hereby further amended by striking out the words “16 and 6 months” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 17.

SECTION 3. Section 1B of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as amended by section 2, is hereby further amended by striking out the figure “17” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 18.

SECTION 4. Section 18 of chapter 76 of the General Laws, as amended by section 8 of chapter 222 of the acts of 2012, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 17, the word “sixteen” and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 18.

SECTION 5. Chapter 741 of the acts of 1965 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. Section 2 shall become effective on September 1, 2015.

SECTION 7. Sections 3 and 4 shall become effective on September 1, 2017.

17 SECTION 8. Subject to appropriation, the department of elementary and secondary
18 education shall develop and administer a 3-year pilot program for dropout prevention and
19 recovery programs for school districts with annual dropout rates greater than the state average.
20 The pilot program shall be a competitive grant process for school districts or local community
21 agencies serving students who reside in these districts. The dropout prevention and recovery
22 programs shall target high school students who have dropped out of school or are at risk of
23 dropping out of school using at least 1 of the following methods:

24 (i) Alternative education, which shall mean diploma or general educational
25 development granting programs that use evidence-based instruction and student support
26 strategies designed to meet the needs of the target population and prepare them for postsecondary
27 education or training. These evidence-based instruction and student support strategies may
28 include, but are not limited to, smaller class size, competency-based learning, project-based
29 learning, work-based learning, community service learning, graduation coaching, case
30 management, family engagement, wraparound support, restorative justice and social service
31 referrals.

32 (ii) Graduation coaches, who shall be professionals with youth development
33 and academic support expertise who shall provide the target population with graduation plans.
34 The graduation plans shall include, at a minimum, academic, career and postsecondary goals.
35 Graduation coaches shall also provide follow-up support to complete the graduation plans,
36 navigate academic requirements, engage families, overcome socio-emotional barriers and secure
37 appropriate social services.

38 (iii) Dropout outreach and recovery programs, which shall mean targeted
39 outreach and transition support for students who have dropped out of school. The programs shall,
40 at a minimum, reach out to students, determine their academic status and personal circumstances,
41 assist students in enrolling in a high school or general educational development program, provide
42 transitional support and track students' academic progress.

43 (iv) Expectant and parenting student support, which may include, but is not
44 limited to, the development and implementation of school policies that set high academic
45 expectations, establish procedures for maternity and paternity leave, and provide flexible
46 scheduling; expectant and parenting student liaisons who shall work with students to develop
47 graduation plans that include, at a minimum, academic, career and postsecondary goals and who
48 provide follow-up support to complete the graduation plans, navigate academic requirements,
49 engage families, overcome socio-emotional barriers and secure appropriate social services; and,
50 annual data collection that shall include, but is not limited to, the number of parenting students in
51 the district, any supports or interventions provided to the parenting students, and parenting
52 student progress toward and completion of secondary school.

53 The department shall develop guidelines for an annual review of the progress being made
54 by each district and local community agency participating in the pilot program. Each district and
55 agency in the pilot program shall participate in any evaluation or accountability process
56 implemented by or authorized by the department. The department shall prepare and submit an
57 annual report describing and analyzing the implementation of the pilot program in all
58 participating districts. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the number of participating
59 school districts, schools and local community agencies; the number of students served and the
60 type and duration of those services; the progress made by those students toward attaining a high
61 school diploma or general educational development; and the number of students served who
62 have attained a high school diploma or passed the general educational development test. The
63 department shall file its annual report no later than September 1 of each year by filing the same
64 with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate who shall forward a copy of the
65 report to the joint committee on education. The department shall file a final report within 6
66 months of the conclusion of the 3 year pilot period that shall include an analysis of all relevant
67 data so as to determine the effectiveness of the program and specific legislative
68 recommendations, including whether the program should be expanded, maintained or
69 discontinued, by filing the same with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate
70 who shall forward a copy of the report to the joint committee on education.