

SENATE No. 236

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 establishing a commission on regional school district foundation budgets.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Dean A. Tran</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

SENATE No. 236

By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 236) of Harriette L. Chandler, Diana DiZoglio, James B. Eldridge, Joanne M. Comerford and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a commission on regional school district foundation budgets. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act establishing a commission on regional school district foundation budgets.

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 shall be a regional school district foundation budget commission to
2 review the way that regional school districts are funded and to recommend a framework that
3 better accounts for differences between the towns that make up these districts and how the
4 funding is distributed. In conducting the review, the commission shall seek to determine, with
5 respect to regional school districts, the educational programs and services necessary to achieve
6 the commonwealth's educational goals and to prepare students to achieve passing scores on the
7 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System examinations. The review shall include, but
8 not be limited to, those components of the regional school district foundation budget established
9 pursuant to section 3 of chapter 70 of the General Laws. Further, the commission shall seek to
10 determine and recommend measures to promote the adoption of ways in which resources may be
11 most effectively utilized and consider various models of efficient and effective resource
12 allocation. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall provide any data and

13 information to the commission that the commissioner considers relevant to the commission's
14 charge.

15 The commission shall consist of 1 person who shall be appointed by the senate president,
16 who shall serve as co-chair; 1 person who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate;
17 1 person who shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, who shall serve
18 as co-chair; 1 person who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of
19 representatives; 1 person who shall be appointed by the secretary of education; 1 person who
20 shall be appointed by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education and 9 persons
21 who shall be appointed by the governor, all of whom shall have experience working with a
22 regional school district, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Association of
23 Regional Schools, Inc., 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Association of
24 School Committees, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Association of
25 School Business Officials, Inc., 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts
26 Teachers Association, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Association of
27 School Superintendents, 1 of whom shall be a high school student attending a school in a
28 regional school district, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Municipal
29 Association, and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Budget and Policy
30 Center, Inc. Members shall not receive compensation for their services but may receive
31 reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities as
32 members of the commission. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education may
33 furnish reasonable staff and other support for the work of the commission.

34 Before issuing its recommendations, the commission shall conduct not less than 4 public
35 hearings across regions of the commonwealth. It shall not constitute a violation of chapter 268A

36 for a person employed by a school district to serve on the commission or to participate in
37 commission deliberations that may have a financial impact on the district employing that person
38 or on the rate at which that person may be compensated. The commission may establish
39 procedures to ensure that no such person shall participate in commission deliberations that may
40 directly affect the school districts employing those persons or that may directly affect the rate at
41 which those persons are compensated.

42 The commission shall file its report, together with drafts of its recommended legislation,
43 with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the senate and house chairs of the joint
44 committee on education and the chairs of the senate and house committees on ways and means
45 not later than December 31, 2019.