

HOUSE No. 436

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act RESOLVE RELATIVE TO TEACHER LICENSURE.

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

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a special
2 commission to study and report on ways to improve the teacher licensure process. The
3 commission shall consist of the commissioner of education; 3 members of the house of
4 representatives, 2 of whom shall to be appointed by the speaker of the house, and 1 of whom
5 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house; 3 members of the senate, 2 of whom shall
6 be appointed by the senate president, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate minority
7 leader; the chancellor of higher education; a representative of the Massachusetts Teacher
8 Association; and a member appointed by the governor. The scope of the commission shall
9 include, but shall not be limited to: researching the current process of teacher licensure and ways
10 to streamline the process of certifying qualified applicants; analyzing the effectiveness, clarity
11 and accessibility of applications and certification via email and the internet; examining the
12 feasibility of streamlining the application process for teachers who have previous extensive
13 experience in a public or a private school system; evaluating possible options to simplify or
14 lessen current state teacher licensure regulations; and examining the capacity of the department

15 to process all teacher applications and certifications in a timely manner. The commission shall
16 submit its report to the board of education, the joint committee on education, and the senate and
17 house clerks no later than six months after the passage of this act.