

SENATE No. 207

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act to improve and coordinate teacher professional development in the Commonwealth..

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. Whereas, Qualified Teachers are the most important component in a
2 quality education; and

3 Whereas, Continuing Professional Development has been demonstrated to be the most
4 effective manner by which professionals improve and keep current in their fields of practice; and

5 Whereas, the manner, form, and quality of Teacher and School Leader Professional
6 Development varies widely among the various public school districts across the Commonwealth;
7 and

8 Whereas, in order to support the most effective forms of Teacher and School Leader
9 Professional Development, the state must first inventory and perform standards-based
10 evaluations all forms of Teacher and School Leader Professional Development being offered in
11 every district throughout the Commonwealth ; therefore

12 The General Court deems it to be essential that a strategy be developed expeditiously to
13 inventory and evaluate all teacher skill and professional development and school leadership
14 programs being offered throughout the Commonwealth, and that this act take immediate effect.

15 Section 1. The Department of Education is hereby authorized, subject to appropriation,
16 to contract for a comprehensive review of professional development activities and evaluation
17 procedures for public school educators throughout the Commonwealth.

18 Section 2. The review shall include an audit of all professional development programs
19 funded and/or provided by federal, state, local, district, and private sources.

20 a) The review shall include all programs adopted, implemented, and filed with the
21 commissioner of education in fulfillment of the requirements of section 38Q of Chapter 71;

22 b) The review shall also include all professional development programs offered by
23 public institutions, which do not have to be registered with the Commissioner, under the
24 requirements of DOE regulations 603 CMR 44.00 and section 38Q of Chapter 71.

25 Section 3. Based on the information gathered in the review process, the department shall
26 work with its contractor and educational administrators and teachers to develop a plan for
27 coordinated statewide professional development, including the promotion of replicable models
28 that have demonstrated record of success in promoting student achievement and success as well
29 as a plan for the elimination of duplicative or unsuccessful programs.

30 Section 4. The department shall also make recommendations for the maintenance of a
31 registry at the department of education and on its department World Wide Web site of all such

32 professional development services and providers, public and private, including a qualitative
33 evaluation of each service and provider.

34 Section 5. Report and Recommendations. The Department shall file a report with the
35 chairs of the Joint Committee on Education and the House and Senate Committees on Ways and
36 Means not later than 8 months subsequent the required appropriation, and may make such
37 interim reports as it deems appropriate. Said report shall include any legislative
38 recommendations to improve and coordinate professional development efforts in the
39 Commonwealth.

40 Section 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.