

SENATE No. 219

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act authorizing a study of starting times and schedules.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department
2 of education is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a comprehensive study relative to the
3 affect which high school starting times have on the academic performance of students. Said
4 study shall include, but not be limited to, a survey of high school starting times and the duration
5 of high school academic hours throughout the commonwealth, and shall make findings relative
6 to the affect which high school starting times have on student academic performance. Provided
7 further, that such study shall make recommendations relative to whether high school starting
8 times should be scheduled later in the morning, and how school districts can adapt school day
9 starting times to enhance student education. Said study shall also review and make
10 recommendations relative to other school day scheduling issues which affect high school starting
11 times. Said department, in the conduct of said study shall examine relevant scientific studies and
12 academic research, and shall request comment and suggestions from students, teachers, and
13 education policy makers, provided further, that said department shall conduct no less than two
14 public hearings to ensure public input and comment. A copy of said study shall be filed with the

- 15 senate and house clerks and the senate and house chairmen of the Joint Committee on Education
- 16 not later than six months after the enactment of this act.