

HOUSE No. 1066

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tom Sannicandro

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 to form a commission on for-profit schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/20/2011</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2011</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>		<i>1/28/2011</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/31/2011</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2011</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Christine E. Canavan</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Susan C. Fargo</i>		<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Stephen Stat Smith</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>

HOUSE No. 1066

By Mr. Sannicandro of Ashland, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1066) of Tom Sannicandro and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the impact of proprietary schools receiving certain public investments. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to form a commission on for-profit schools.

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 is hereby established a special commission created for the purpose of
2 studying and making recommendations concerning the impact of proprietary schools receiving
3 public investments in the form of federal and state financial aid on residents of the
4 Commonwealth who are or have been enrolled in these institutions. The commission shall
5 consist of 16 members 1 of whom shall be the Undersecretary of Consumer Affairs and Business
6 Regulations or his/her designee, who shall serve as chair; 1 of whom call be the Commissioner
7 of Higher Education or his/her designee; 1 of whom shall be the Commissioner of the Board of
8 Elementary and Secondary Education or his/her designee; 1 of whom shall be the Attorney
9 General or his/her designee; 2 of whom shall be the chairs of the joint committee on consumer
10 protection and professional licensure; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house;
11 1 of whom hall be appointed by the senate president; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the
12 minority leader of the house; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; ;

13 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Crittenton Women’s Union; 1 of whom shall be a
14 representative of The Midas Collaborative and 4 members appointed by the Undersecretary of
15 Consumer Affairs and Business Regulations; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the general
16 public who was enrolled or is currently enrolled in a for-profit college or proprietary institution
17 in Massachusetts, 2 of whom shall represent proprietary schools including one accredited school
18 that is eligible to receive state and federal aid and one that is non-accredited and ineligible to
19 receive state and federal aid and 1 of whom shall represent a consumer advocacy group such as
20 MassPIRG.

21 This commission shall include, but not be limited to, review of the organization of
22 proprietary school oversight in Massachusetts; studying and making of recommendations for
23 possible consolidation of oversight authority into a single entity, or other efforts to provide
24 increased oversight; examination of the need for improved financial auditing procedures and
25 improved enforcement of relevant Massachusetts Consumer Protection laws, including, but not
26 limited to, the areas of advertising, recruitment, retention, financial aid practices, credit transfer
27 practices, and fees or penalties; an assessment of the adequacy of free or low-cost loan
28 counseling and legal support for Massachusetts residents in default on student loans; research
29 into the need for increased consumer education about proprietary schools and the financial
30 responsibilities associated with student loans; drafting recommendations to provide consumers
31 with greater transparency regarding schools’ compliance with state and federal laws, loan default
32 rate, or schools which have been sanctioned in Massachusetts or in other states; making
33 recommendations with regard to requiring counseling of students considering financing their
34 proprietary school education in part with loans.

35 The commission shall be empowered to hold regular public meetings, fact-finding
36 hearings, and other public forums, as it considers necessary.

37 The commission shall file its recommendations, together with recommendations for
38 legislation, if any, with the House and Senate clerks who shall forward the same to the General
39 Court no later than 2 year after the passage of this act. The commission shall file a progress
40 report, along with any recommendations for legislation prepared by that time, no later than 1
41 year after passage of this act.