

HOUSE No. 1950

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 promote inclusive transition programs for students with severe disabilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/20/2011</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2011</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>		<i>2/1/2011</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/2/2011</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Cynthia S. Creem</i>		<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>

HOUSE No. 1950

By Mr. Sannicandro of Ashland, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1950) of Tom Sannicandro and others relative to transition programs for students with severe disabilities. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to promote inclusive transition programs for students with severe disabilities.

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

1 Subject to appropriation the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
2 develop and administer a discretionary grant program to provide monies to school districts and
3 state public institutions of higher education partnering together to offer inclusive concurrent
4 enrollment programs for students with disabilities as defined in section 1 of chapter 71B of the
5 General Laws ages 18 to 22, inclusive; provided, that the grant program shall be limited to said
6 students who are considered to have severe disabilities and, in the case of students ages 18 and
7 19, shall be limited to students with severe disabilities who have been unable to achieve the
8 competency determination necessary to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment
9 System exam. The goal of the grant program shall be to meet the transition needs of students
10 with severe disabilities by developing the capacity of school districts, working in partnership
11 with institutes of higher education, to support college success, participation in student life of the
12 college community, competitive employment, and provision of a free appropriate public
13 education in the least restrictive environment. The department, in consultation with the

14 department of higher education, shall develop guidelines to ensure that the grant program meets
15 this goal and also promotes provision of training and technical assistance for faculty and
16 personnel in state institutions of higher education.

17 Students with disabilities participating in the grant program shall be offered enrollment
18 in credit and noncredit courses that include nondisabled students, including enrollment in
19 noncredit courses and credit bearing courses in audit status for students who may not meet
20 course prerequisites and requirements, and the partnering school districts will ensure provision
21 of supports and services necessary to facilitate a student's enrollment.

22 The department, in consultation with the department of higher education, shall develop
23 strategies and procedures to help sustain and replicate inclusive concurrent enrollment programs
24 initiated through the department's discretionary grant program including but not limited to:
25 continued funding for partnerships of institutes of higher education and school districts that have
26 developed inclusive concurrent enrollment programs in order to sustain the existing programs
27 and to retain employment specialists to assist students in meeting competitive employment and
28 other transition-related goals; and adoption of procedures and funding mechanisms to ensure
29 that new partnerships of institutions of higher education and school districts providing inclusive
30 concurrent enrollment programs fully utilize the models and expertise developed in existing
31 partnerships. The department shall develop a mechanism to encourage existing and new
32 partnerships to expand capacity to respond to individual parents that request an opportunity for
33 their children to participate in the inclusive concurrent enrollment initiative. Tuition for courses
34 shall be waived by the institutes of higher education for students enrolled through this grant
35 program.

36 The department of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with the
37 department of higher education, shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and
38 means, the joint committee on education and the joint committee on higher education on the
39 status of the grant program annually on February 15.