HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2598 FILED ON: 1/17/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2993

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Garballey

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 creating a special commission on school library services in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*
Kate Hogan	*3rd Middlesex*
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	*20th Middlesex*
Bradford Hill	*4th Essex*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
John H. Rogers	*12th Norfolk*
Denise Andrews	*2nd Franklin*
Paul W. Mark	*2nd Berkshire*
David M. Rogers	*24th Middlesex*
Louis L. Kafka	*8th Norfolk*
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	*5th Essex*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*
James R. Miceli	*19th Middlesex*
William C. Galvin	*6th Norfolk*
David Paul Linsky	*5th Middlesex*
Cory Atkins	*14th Middlesex*

Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*
Thomas A. Golden, Jr.	*16th Middlesex*

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By Mr. Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2993) of Sean Garballey and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to school library services in the Commonwealth. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act creating a special commission on school library services 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:

SECTION 1. Resolved, that, notwithstanding any general law, or special law to the contrary, a special commission is hereby established to study Massachusetts Public School Library programs consisting of two (2) members of the Senate: one of whom shall be the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education or his/her designee, and one of whom shall be a member of the minority party who shall be appointed by the minority leader; provided, however, that one (1) member of the Senate shall be designated as Co-chair of the Commission; two (2) members of the House of Representatives: one of whom shall be the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education or his/her designee, and one of whom shall be a member of the minority party who shall be appointed by the minority leader; provided, however, that one (1) member of the House of Representatives shall be designated as Co-chair of the Commission; the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or his/her designee; the president of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, or his/her designee; the president of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, or his/her designee; a member of either the Massachusetts Teachers Association or the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Federation of Teachers; two (2) Executive Board members of the Massachusetts School Library Association; one (1) member each from the Massachusetts Library Association, the Massachusetts Library System, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; and two (2) persons to be appointed by the governor: one (1) from the business community, and one (1) from a charter school.

The Co-Chairs shall convene the organizational session of the commission not later than 60 days after the effective date of this Act.

22 The special commission shall make an investigation to determine the status of
23 Massachusetts public school library programs, including but not limited to: 1) an investigation of
24 how many schools in each district have a school library and a credentialed school librarian and in
25 how many schools are these full-time positions; 2) an assessment of the ratio of students per
26 credentialed school librarian; 3) an assessment of what other support staff work in the school
27 library program; 4) an investigation of how school libraries are scheduled; 5) an investigation of
28 the hours school libraries are open each week for students and faculty to use; 6) an investigation
29 of how many hours each week school librarians provide direct library-related instruction to
30 students; 7) an assessment of how many computers are in school libraries for students to access;
31 8) an investigation of the size and age of the collection in each school library, and the extent of
32 electronic and digital materials available for students to access; 9) an investigation of current
33 funding per student for school library materials and services; 10) any other matters that the
34 special commission considers relevant to the fulfillment of its mission and purpose.

35 The special commission may conduct public hearings to gather information, including the
36 sponsorship of statewide or regional conferences involving educators, students or the public at
37 large. The Massachusetts Department of Education shall provide staff and other resources as the
38 commission and those agencies consider appropriate. The special commission will generate a
39 report at the end of the commission's work that creates a long-range plan for Massachusetts'
40 school library programs that may include the adoption of guidelines for school library facilities,
41 budget, staffing, collection development, and curriculum standards for school library programs.
42 The special commission shall make its final report and recommendations, together with drafts of
43 legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the
44 Joint Committee on Education not later than December 31st, 2014. The special commission may
45 make such interim reports, as it considers appropriate.