HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3403 FILED ON: 1/18/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 413

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Danielle W. Gregoire

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 resolve:

Resolve establishing a charter school commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Danielle W. Gregoire	*4th Middlesex*
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 413

By Miss Gregoire of Marlborough, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 413) of Danielle W. Gregoire and Anne M. Gobi for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the financing, caps imposed upon, and innovations promoted by charter schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

Resolve establishing a charter school commission.

Resolved, There is hereby established a charter school commission to study the financing of, caps imposed upon, and innovations promoted by charter schools authorized under the provisions of chapter 71, section 89 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition. The commission shall also study the obstacles which have limited the broader utilization of the Horace Mann model of charter schools. The commission shall report its findings and conclusions to the general court and make recommendations regarding any necessary legislative and regulatory changes which are suggested by those findings and conclusions. The first meeting of the commission shall take place within 30 days after the effective date of this act.

The commission shall consist of: the speaker of the house of representatives, or his designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the president of the senate, or his designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the minority leaders of the house and senate, or their designees; the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education; the chairs of the house and senate committee on ways and means; the secretary of Administration, or her designee; 3 appointees of the Governor, one of which shall be a superintendent of schools; and the Commissioner of Education, or his designee.

In carrying out its charge, the commission shall examine, report on, and make recommendations regarding, the following matters:

a) the appropriateness of the financing and reimbursement provisions of chapter 71, section 89(nn) and section 89(pp) as a mechanism for the financing of charter schools;

20 b) the extent to which the reimbursement provisions of chapter 71, section 89(pp) are
21 effective at minimizing the adverse financial impact of charter schools on sending school
22 districts while providing sufficient resources for the successful operation of charter schools;

23 c) the obstacles to broader utilization of Horace Mann charters as a vehicle to achieve the
24 objectives articulated in section 89(d);

25 d) the reasons for the transfer of students from charter schools back to local public
26 schools, including students who are suspended or disenrolled;

27 e) the percentages of students who require special education, receive free and reduced
28 lunch and are English Language Learners;

29 f) employment data such as average teacher salary and teacher and principal turnover
30 rates;

31 g) infrastructure costs;

32 h) comparisons of IEP profiles between charters and public districts;

33 i) comparisons of non-English speaking students (LEP-1) at charters to districts; and

34 j) the percentage of ELL and SPED students, particularly in comparison with percentage
35 of same students in their home communities.

36 k) the efficacy and fairness of the charter school approval process as is currently used by
37 DESE.

38 The commission shall solicit advice from such persons and entities as it deems necessary,
39 including the department of education, associations representing superintendents, other
40 educational administrators, teachers, school business officers, municipal officials and charter
41 schools.

42 The commission shall file a report containing its recommendations, including legislation
43 and regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the joint committee on
44 education and the clerks of the house and senate not later than 6 months following the first
45 meeting of the working group.