SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1159 FILED ON: 1/18/2013

SENATE . . . . . No. 234

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 relative to financial literacy in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*
David M. Rogers	*24th Middlesex*
Robert M. Koczera	*11th Bristol*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Ryan C. Fattman	*18th Worcester*
Eileen M. Donoghue	*First Middlesex*
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 234

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 234) of James B. Eldridge, David M. Rogers, Robert M. Koczera, Sal N. DiDomenico and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to financial literacy in schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *204* OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to financial literacy in schools.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to increase the personal financial literacy of students in the Commonwealth, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 1N the following section:-

Section 1O. To equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to become self-supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding personal finances, the department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize and assist in the implementation of standards and objectives on personal financial literacy. The components of personal financial literacy covered in the standards and objectives shall include: understanding loans, borrowing money, interest, credit card debt, and online commerce; rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home; saving, investing and planning for retirement; banking and financial services; balancing a checkbook; state and federal taxes; and charitable giving.

12 The department shall develop standards and objectives on personal financial literacy, for
13 grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive, within the existing mathematics curriculum for
14 implementation by the start of the 2015-2016 school year. The department shall make available
15 to school districts, charter schools, approved private day or residential schools, and collaborative
16 schools a list of resources to aid in the selection of materials and curriculum on personal
17 financial literacy. The department shall identify and offer information on cost-effective methods
18 for fulfilling the professional development activities needed to implement said standards and
19 objectives. The department may consult with private, nonprofit, or other government institutions
20 in order to identify and offer said information. The department may apply for any federal, state,
21 or other funding, including funding available through the Financial Literacy Trust Fund, as
22 established by Chapter 10 of the General Laws, as amended by Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2011.

23 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the advisory
24 committee established under Section 200(b) of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012 shall also
25 conduct a study on additional current programs on financial literacy being offered in the
26 Commonwealth for grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive, and the cost, to individual schools
27 and school districts, of offering said programs. The advisory committee shall submit the results
28 of this study to the clerks of the senate and the house who shall forward the same to the chairs of
29 the joint committee on education on or before August 31, 2014.

30 In consultation with the department, the advisory committee shall also advise and oversee
31 the development and implementation of standards and objectives on personal financial literacy.
32 After the submission of the report regarding all financial literacy programs in the
33 Commonwealth on or before August 31, 2014, the advisory committee shall submit a report on
34 best practices and recommended improvements annually thereafter for three subsequent years to
35 the clerks of the senate and the house who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint
36 committee on education on or before December 31. The advisory committee shall consult with
37 individuals with relevant experiences including representatives from insurance and investment
38 firms, real estate firms, and bankruptcy attorneys.