HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1602 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 308

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer E. Benson

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 Special Education Services for Low Incidence Populations.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*
Carolyn C. Dykema	*8th Middlesex*
Kimberly N. Ferguson	*1st Worcester*
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*
Brian M. Ashe	*2nd Hampden*
Barbara A. L'Italien	*Second Essex and Middlesex*
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*
Denise C. Garlick	*13th Norfolk*
Jonathan Hecht	*29th Middlesex*
Kate Hogan	*3rd Middlesex*
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*

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By Ms. Benson of Lunenburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 308) of Jennifer E. Benson and others that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education be directed to make an investigation and study to determine whether there are sufficient and appropriate services provided to low incidence students with disabilities. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *334* OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act Relative to Special Education Services for Low Incidence Populations.

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

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of elementary and secondary education shall make an investigation and a study, subject to appropriation, to determine whether there are sufficient and appropriate services for low incidence students with disabilities and to identify opportunities for administrative efficiencies and cost savings by school districts.

There shall be an advisory group chaired by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or his designee, which shall assist the department in conducting the investigation and study. Members of the advisory group shall include the commissioner of the department of public health or designee, the commissioner of the department of mental

10 retardation or designee, the commissioner of the department of mental health or designee, a
11 representative of the commission for the blind, a representative of the commission for the deaf
12 and hard of hearing; and one person selected by each of the following organizations: the
13 Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education, the Urban Superintendents Group, the
14 Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives, the Massachusetts Association of 766
15 Approved Private Schools, the Massachusetts Advocates for Children, the Federation for
16 Children with Special Needs, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, the
17 Massachusetts Head Injury Foundation. The commissioner of elementary and secondary
18 education may appoint such other members as he deems necessary to assist the department in
19 carrying out the investigation and study. The advisory group shall advise and assist the
20 department by reviewing available data concerning low incidence students with disabilities;
21 considering current special education program and service delivery structures and placements for
22 low incidence students and their costs; examining programs and services provided by non-
23 educational agencies that support students with disabilities; identifying needs and challenges in
24 transitions from early intervention through post-secondary and adult service systems as well as
25 student relocations from one district to another; identifying best practices for providing high
26 quality and cost-effective services to low incidence students with disabilities; and determining
27 the challenges and opportunities for ensuring coherent, appropriate and cost effective services for
28 students across multiple agencies as they progress from early intervention services to pre-K-12
29 education and to postsecondary education and adult services, including, but not limited to
30 examining the opportunity for funding to follow a child through the system.

31 The department shall file a report on the results of its investigation and study, and any
32 recommendations relative thereto, with the joint committee on education no later than twenty-
33 four months after enactment of this bill.