

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3929

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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INITIATIVE PETITION OF DONNA M. COLORIO AND OTHERS.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.  
BOSTON, JANUARY 6, 2016.

Steven T. James  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives*  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Sir: - I herewith transmit to you, in accordance with the requirements of Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution, an Initiative Petition for a law "Relative to Ending Common Core Education Standards," signed by ten qualified voters and filed with this department on or before December 2, 2015, together with additional signatures of qualified voters in the number of 72,293, being a sufficient number to comply with the Provisions of said Article.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

AN INITIATIVE PETITION.

Pursuant to Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as amended, the undersigned qualified voters of the Commonwealth, ten in number at least, hereby petition for the enactment into law of the following measure:

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3929**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

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An Act Relative to Ending Common Core Education Standards.

*Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the  
2     contrary, the vote taken by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on  
3     July 21, 2010, to adopt the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English  
4     Language Arts is hereby rescinded. The curriculum frameworks in Mathematics and English  
5     Language Arts that were in effect prior to that date are hereby restored.

6           SECTION 2. Section 1D of Chapter 69 is hereby amended in the second paragraph by  
7     inserting after the first sentence, the following new sentences:

8           The process shall include committees made up exclusively of public school teachers and  
9     academics from private and public colleges and universities established and operated in  
10    Massachusetts. The commissioner shall copyright the frameworks, which shall be wholly owned  
11    by the department; permission shall be granted to copy any or all parts of these frameworks for  
12    non-commercial educational purposes.

SECTION 3. Said section 1D of chapter 69 is hereby further amended in the second paragraph by inserting after the third sentence the following new sentences:

There shall be three review committees, one for each discipline of math, science and technology and English. Each review committee shall have three members appointed by the governor who shall choose said members from private or public research universities established and operated in Massachusetts for each of the disciplines. For the purposes of this section, a “research university” is any university that awards doctoral degrees in the arts and sciences. Each review committee shall warrant by a two-thirds vote that the frameworks are equivalent to the standards of the most educationally advanced nations as determined by the Trends in Mathematics and Sciences Study. No framework shall be approved by the board without such a warrant.

SECTION 4. Section 1I of Chapter 69 is hereby amended in the third paragraph by inserting after the second sentence, the following new sentence:

In order to better inform the teachers and administrators about the diagnostic assessments, after the administration of the assessments but before the start of the new school year, the commissioner shall release all of the test items, including questions, constructed responses and essays, for each grade and every subject.

SECTION 5. The several provisions of this Act are independent and severable and the invalidity, if any, of any part or feature thereof shall not affect or render the remainder of the Act invalid or inoperative.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect immediately upon becoming law.

## FIRST TEN SIGNERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>CITY OR TOWN</u>
Donna M. Colorio	10 Homer Street, #2	Worcester
Sandra L. Stotsky	246 Clark Road	Brookline
Michael Sentsnce	45 Bayberry Road	Concord
Ryan C. Fattman	565 School Street, #2	Webster
Kevin J. Kuros	18 Yankees Way	Uxbridge
Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.	140 Charlton Road	Spencer
Agatha A. Bodwell	6 Cardinal Road	Sandwich
Peter Robert Hoogerzeil	60 Ferncliffe Road	Seekonk
Shanon Ann Dahlstrom	29 Sleigh Road	Chelmsford
David M. McGeney	52 Samoset Road	Peabody

CERTIFICATE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

September 2 2015.

Honorable William Francis Galvin  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth*  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1705  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

RE: Initiative Petition No. 15-12: Initiative Petition for a Law Relative to  
Ending Common Core Education Standards.

Dear Secretary Galvin:

I accordance with the provisions of Article 48 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, I have reviewed the above-referenced initiative petition, which was submitted to me on or before the first Wednesday of August of this year.

I hereby certify that this measure is in proper form for submission to the people; that the measure is not, either affirmatively or negatively, substantially the same as any measure which has been qualified for submission or submitted to the people at either of the two preceding biennial state elections; and that it contains only subjects that are related or are mutually dependent and which are not excluded from the initiative process pursuant to Article 48, the Initiative, Part 2, Section 2.

In accordance with Article 48, I enclose a fair, concise summary of the measure.

Sincerely,

MAURA HEALEY,  
*Attorney General.*

## Summary of 15-12.

This proposed law would reverse a 2010 vote by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education relative to the 2010 Common Core state educational standards. The proposed law would restore the English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum frameworks in place prior to the vote.

The proposed law would require that the Board's process for developing curriculum frameworks include committees made up of public school teachers and academics from public and private colleges and universities in Massachusetts. It would also require the state Commissioner of Education to copyright the curriculum frameworks and to grant permission to copy any or all parts of the frameworks for non-commercial educational purposes.

The proposed law would establish three review committees, one for each discipline of math, science and technology, and English. Each committee would be made up of three members from Massachusetts research universities appointed by the Governor. The Board would be prohibited from approving any curriculum frameworks unless the review committees first decide by a two-thirds vote that the frameworks are equivalent to the standards of the most educationally advanced nations as determined by the Trends in Mathematics and Sciences Study.

The proposed law would require that, each year, the Commissioner publicly release all test items, including questions, constructed responses, and essays, for each grade and for every subject.

The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.