

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alan Silvia

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 to provide targeted pre-k education to all four year old children meeting specific guidelines in all gateway cities (26).

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>3/16/2015</i>

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Silvia of Fall River, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Alan Silvia relative to pre-k education in gateway cities. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to provide targeted pre-k education to all four year old children meeting specific guidelines in all gateway cities (26).

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

1 An Act to provide targeted pre-k education to all four year old children meeting specific
2 requirements in all gateway cities (26).

3 Chapter 13 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 13 the
4 following section:-

5 Section 13A. (a) The board and department shall develop a program for universal pre-
6 kindergarten education in gateway municipalities, as defined in section 3A of chapter 23A,
7 which shall be available to all children ages 4 and older who reside in a gateway municipality
8 and would be eligible for free or reduced price lunch if the child attended a public school;
9 provided, that the program may be available to children ages 3 and older who otherwise meet the
10 requirements of this subsection.

11 (b) In developing the program, the board and department shall: (1) establish a
12 standardized pre-kindergarten curriculum for all program participants; (2) partner with current

13 providers of pre-kindergarten services in gateway communities, who shall include, but is not
14 limited to, public, private, and faith-based educational programs; and (3) focus on the specific
15 cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, cultural, and physical needs of the children in each
16 gateway municipality.

17 (c) Each child who qualifies for the universal pre-kindergarten program established by
18 this section shall be counted as a student of the school district in which the child attends the pre-
19 kindergarten program, and shall be included as such a student for the purposes of calculating that
20 district's funding pursuant to chapter 70.

21 (d) The board and department shall provide vouchers to eligible households as necessary
22 to fully implement the universal pre-kindergarten education program established by this section.

23 (e) The board shall adopt regulations relative to the requirements of this section