

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 relative to non-public school student access to the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>8/20/2015</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>8/27/2015</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>	<i>8/26/2015</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>8/21/2015</i>
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	<i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>8/27/2015</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>7/22/2019</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>	<i>7/22/2019</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>	<i>8/27/2015</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>8/28/2015</i>

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Silvia of Fall River, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Alan Silvia and others for legislation to authorize public school districts to make the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam available to non-public school students. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to non-public school student access to the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1I of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the 12th paragraph the following
3 paragraph:-

4 A student in a non-public school in the commonwealth may elect to take the
5 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam in the school district wherein the
6 student resides. The cost of administering the exam to such students shall be borne by the school
7 district in which they take the exam.

8 SECTION 2. Said chapter 69 is hereby amended by inserting after said section 1I the
9 following section:-

10 Section 1I ½. Any student of a non-public school in the commonwealth who elects to
11 take the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam, hereinafter referred to as

12 MCAS, pursuant to section II, shall be eligible to receive a John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
13 provided the student meets the following requirements:

14 (i) (a) by the end of the student's eleventh grade school year for any student who
15 graduated from or under the auspices of a non-public high school in the commonwealth after
16 June 30, 2005 and on or before June 30, 2015 , was in the highest 15 percent in the district in
17 which the student took the exam on the English Language Arts and Mathematics MCAS grade
18 10 tests, and scored in the advanced category on both tests; or (b) by the end of the student's
19 eleventh grade school year for any student who, as of July 1, 2015 , did not graduate from or
20 under the auspices of a non-public high school in the commonwealth, is in the highest 15 percent
21 in the district in which the student took the exam on the English Language Arts, Mathematics
22 and Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS grade 10 tests, and scored at least proficient on
23 the Science and Technology/Engineering test and advanced on the other 2 tests;

24 (ii) is a permanent legal resident of Massachusetts for at least 1 year prior to the
25 start of the academic year and who is a United States citizen or a non-citizen eligible under
26 guidelines provided or promulgated pursuant to Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of
27 1965, Public Law 89-329;

28 (iii) is enrolled full-time in a public institution of higher education that accepts
29 the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, and has not earned a prior bachelor's degree;

30 (iv) maintains a cumulative 3.5 grade point average on all academic coursework
31 at the institution awarding the degree; or if transferring, the student maintained a cumulative 3.5
32 grade point average at the institution from which from the student is transferring ;

33 (v) completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid prior to the start of
34 the academic year;

35 (vi) maintains satisfactory academic progress in accordance with institutional
36 standards;

37 (vii) is in compliance with applicable law regarding Selective Service
38 Registration; and

39 (viii) is not in default on any federal or state student education loans for
40 attendance at any institution or owes a refund for any previous financial aid received.