SENATE . . . . . No. 2221

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, Wednesday, April 13, 2016

The committee on Education to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 254) of Cynthia S. Creem, William N. Brownsberger, Carolyn C. Dykema, James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation to authorize a study of school day starting times and schedules,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2221).

For the committee,
Sonia Chang-Diaz

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An Act authorizing a study of starting times and schedules.

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. The department of elementary and secondary education shall convene an educational task force to review the effect of school day start times for middle school and secondary school students. The task force shall consist of 9 members: the secretary of education, or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Secondary School Principals, or a designee; the executive director of StartSchoolLater.net, or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials, or a designee; a parent of a high school student who is a member of a school council, as defined in section 59 of chapter 71 of the General Laws; and a superintendent from a district which has implemented later school day starting times.

The task force shall: (i) conduct a comprehensive study, including a review of the scientific findings relative to sleep needs of adolescents, relative to the effect that middle school

and secondary school start times have on the health and academic performance of students; (ii) determine the number of districts in the Commonwealth that have implemented later school day starting times for middle school and secondary schools and examine the academic performance of students, including performance on statewide tests; and (iii) identify resources and opportunities to assist districts in implementing later school day start times for middle school and secondary schools, should their findings under items (i) and (ii) suggest that later start times are beneficial to student learning.

The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the clerks of the house and senate by December 31, 2016.