

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 223**

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**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 to provide equal access to the Bureau of Special Education Appeals.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/18/2017</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>	
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	

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By Ms. Benson of Lunenburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 223) of Jennifer E. Benson and others relative to dispute resolution processes within the Bureau of Special Education Appeals. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 310 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to provide equal access to the Bureau of Special Education Appeals.

*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 2A of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection at the end of the section  
3 2A:-

4           (f) The director, under the direction and supervision of the chief administrative  
5 magistrate, shall hire an attorney, subject to appropriation, to serve as pro se facilitator who shall  
6 provide unrepresented parents with oral and written information, but not legal advice or  
7 representation, so that they may access the bureau’s dispute resolution processes.