

HOUSE No. 223

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>	

HOUSE No. 223

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.

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

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**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.