

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2374

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Senate March 22, 2018, – Text of the Senate Bill relative to financial literacy in schools (being the text of Senate document number 2343, printed as amended)

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)  
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An Act relative to financial literacy in schools.

*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. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 1P the following section:-

3           Section 1Q. (a) The department shall establish standards for students in kindergarten to  
4 grade 12, inclusive, on personal financial literacy to equip students with the knowledge and skills  
5 needed to become self-supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding  
6 personal finances. The standards shall include, but not be limited to: (i) understanding loans; (ii)  
7 borrowing money; (iii) interest and interest accrual; (iv) credit card debt; (v) online commerce;  
8 (vi) rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home; (vii) saving, investing and planning  
9 for retirement; (viii) banking and financial services; (ix) balancing a checkbook; (x) state and  
10 federal taxes; (xi) charitable giving; (xii) evaluating media content, including online content, that  
11 relates to personal finance matters; (xiii) saving, investing and planning for higher education or  
12 professional training; and (xiv) understanding the impact of cognitive biases on financial  
13 decision making.

14 (b) A school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school, or  
15 collaborative school may incorporate the personal financial literacy standards established under  
16 subsection (a) into existing mathematics, social sciences, technology, business or other curricula.

17 (c) The department shall make resources publicly available to assist in the selection of  
18 materials and curriculum on personal financial literacy. The department shall identify and offer  
19 information on resources for professional development activities and instruction on personal  
20 financial literacy. The department shall consult with experts in the field of behavioral science or  
21 related disciplines to incorporate behavioral science in the development and identification of  
22 effective resources, materials and methods of instruction on personal financial literacy. The  
23 department may consult with private, non-profit or government stakeholders to identify such  
24 resources.

25 (d) The department may apply for federal, state or other funding, including funding  
26 available through the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund in section 35QQ of chapter 10.

27 SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
28 advisory committee established under subsection (b) of section 200 of chapter 139 of the acts of  
29 2012 is hereby revived and continued to December 31, 2022. The advisory committee shall, in  
30 consultation with the department of elementary and secondary education and individuals with  
31 relevant experience, including representatives from insurance and investment firms, real estate  
32 firms, consumer protection advocates and bankruptcy attorneys, track and evaluate the  
33 development and implementation of standards on personal financial literacy.

34 (b) The advisory committee shall conduct a study on: (i) programs on financial literacy  
35 being offered in the commonwealth to students in kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, in the

36 2018-2019 academic year; and (ii) the cost of these programs to individual schools and school  
37 districts. The advisory committee shall submit the results of this study in a report to the clerks of  
38 the senate and the house of representatives and the chairs of the joint committee on education not  
39 later than August 31, 2019.

40 (c) For 3 years after submitting the results of the study under subsection (b), the advisory  
41 committee shall annually submit a report on best practices and recommended improvements to  
42 the personal financial literacy standards. Such report shall be submitted to the clerks of the  
43 senate and the house of representatives and the chairs of the joint committee on education not  
44 later than December 31.

45 SECTION 3. The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish the  
46 standards required by section 1Q of chapter 69 of the General Laws before the start of the 2019-  
47 2020 academic year.