

SENATE No. 287

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Barbara A. L'Italien

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 establish a discretionary grant program for students with autism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>

SENATE No. 287

By Ms. L'Italien, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 287) of Barbara A. L'Italien, Jason M. Lewis, James B. Eldridge and Richard J. Ross for legislation to establish a discretionary grant program for students with autism. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 313 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to establish a discretionary grant program for students with autism.

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 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after Section 16, the following section:-

3 Section 17-- The department of elementary and secondary education shall, subject to
4 appropriation, establish and administer a discretionary grant program with the purpose of
5 providing monies and assistance to school committees that wish to improve the provision of
6 service and support to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the least restrictive
7 environment; provided that the grant program shall support school committees in the
8 development of programs and the preparation of personnel experienced in the area of autism
9 spectrum disorder; Said program and the preparation of personnel shall specially address the
10 verbal and nonverbal communication needs of the child; the need to develop social interaction

11 skills and proficiencies; the skills and proficiencies needed to avoid and respond to bullying,
12 harassment or teasing; the needs resulting from resistance to environmental change or change in
13 daily routines; the needs resulting from engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped
14 movements; the need for an positive behavioral interventions, strategies, and supports to address
15 any behavioral difficulties resulting from autism spectrum disorder; transition needs of youth
16 ages 14-22 to support employment, higher education, and independent living; and other needs
17 resulting from the child's disability that impact progress in the general curriculum in the least
18 restrictive environment, including social and emotional development.