

HOUSE No. 546

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 relative to improving teacher preparation and certification.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Kelcourse</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 546

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 546) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others relative to teacher preparation and certification. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to improving teacher preparation and certification.

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 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 19C and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:-

4 Section 19C. Section 19C. There shall be a Massachusetts master teacher corps program,
5 hereinafter referred to as the corps, for the purpose of building a group of recognized teachers of
6 high achievement in the profession. The corps shall be designed to incentivize highly effective
7 educators to work in high needs schools and recognize and reward these educators for their
8 service. Corps members shall also serve to mentor incoming apprentice teachers and further the
9 goals of the education reform act, so-called. The department of elementary and secondary
10 education, hereinafter referred to as the department, shall administer this program. The board of
11 elementary and secondary education shall promulgate regulations, hereinafter referred to as the
12 board, where necessary, for the effective implementation of such program. Such regulations may
13 include the following provisions:

14 (1) The department may select master teachers who achieve master teacher status
15 through certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, pass a
16 challenging content test, agree to serve in a high needs school for a three-year period, and agree
17 to mentor apprentice teachers. The department may develop and include alternatives to the
18 National Board for Professional Teacher Standards program for the corps selection process.

19 (2) Teachers with master teacher corps status shall retain professional teacher status
20 in the districts in which they were originally employed and are granted a three-year period of
21 leave in order to work in a high needs school in another district. During the time they are
22 working in the high needs school, master educators continue to earn years of creditable service
23 for salary schedule purposes in the districts in which they were originally employed,
24 notwithstanding the provisions of section 38G of chapter 71, or chapter 150E.

25 (3) Master educators who fulfill the three-year commitment will be granted automatic
26 renewal of their professional license for one renewal cycle.

27 (4) The department shall develop an outreach plan to attract underrepresented
28 populations to the teaching profession.

29 (5) School administrators serving in schools that perform in the lowest 20 percent of
30 schools or districts in the state shall be granted the ability to exercise hiring autonomy or
31 preference for educators participating in such program.

32 (6) Incentives for the districts in which the master teachers are originally employed
33 may include additional state funding allocations or preference on competitive grant opportunities
34 administered by the department.

35 SECTION 2. Section 38G of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
36 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 270, the word “student” and replacing
37 it with the following word: candidate.

38 SECTION 3. Section 38G of the chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
39 hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 273-275, the words, “The college or university
40 or school district or other institution shall also provide the commissioner with a transcript of the
41 student’s record,” and replacing it with the following:-

42 The approved program will be evaluated by the commissioner on a regular basis to ensure
43 that candidates are well prepared to meet the needs of students in the commonwealth. Through
44 this review, the commissioner shall meaningfully differentiate the performance of individual
45 program providers based in part on the outcomes of candidates once they are employed. The
46 commissioner shall annually publish data on these programs, including the current approval
47 status.

48 SECTION 4. Section 38G of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
49 further amended by inserting after the word “record” in line 275, the following paragraph:-

50 All applications for reviewing and approving preparation programs under this section
51 shall be accompanied by a fee to be determined annually by the commissioner of administration
52 and finance under the provisions of section 3B of chapter 7. Said fees shall be established and
53 sufficient to allow the department to carry out the responsibilities outlined in this section.

54 SECTION 5. The department of elementary and secondary education shall convene a
55 teacher preparation and certification task force, hereinafter referred to as the task force. The task
56 force shall investigate and study the feasibility of requiring all teacher candidates in educator

57 preparation programs to participate in a teacher residency program and the feasibility of
58 requiring only those teacher candidates who will be seeking employment in high needs districts
59 to participate in a teacher residency program. The task force shall also review the requirements
60 for teacher certification established under section 38G of chapter 71 of the General Laws, and
61 consider the circumstances under which the passage of the teacher certification test required
62 under said section 38G should be considered sufficient to teach in a Massachusetts public school
63 and/or whether any alternative training options should be considered sufficient to meet the
64 requirements under said section 38G.

65 SECTION 6. The task force shall file a report with the commissioner of elementary and
66 secondary education and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the joint
67 committee on education no later than one year after the enactment of this bill.