

HOUSE No. 409

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Blais and Joanne M. Comerford

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 evaluating providing additional educational assistance to school districts with low or declining enrollment.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>1/16/2019</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/16/2019</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/27/2019</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>1/27/2019</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>

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By Representative Blais of Sunderland and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 409) of Natalie M. Blais, Joanne M. Comerford and others that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education be authorized to conduct a feasibility study of an adjustment to the formula for aid to be allocated to school districts with low or declining enrollment as a component of the foundation budget process. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act evaluating providing additional educational assistance to school districts with low or declining enrollment.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The department of elementary and secondary education shall conduct a feasibility study
2 of establishing an adjustment to the formula for aid to be allocated to school districts with low or
3 declining enrollment as a component of the foundation budget process. The study shall examine
4 the impact of fixed labor and material costs that do not vary relative to the number of students on
5 the ability of schools with low or declining enrollment to provide a quality education to their
6 students. The study shall consider options for a formula adjustment, including use of a low or
7 declining enrollment adjustment factor applied in a manner similar to the wage adjustment
8 factor. The study shall examine the feasibility of such a formula applied to a range of districts,
9 including pre-K to 12 or K-12, non-vocational and non-charter school districts with enrollments
10 of 1,300 students or fewer. The study shall also evaluate how a low or declining enrollment
11 adjustment factor would impact schools receiving rural school aid under item 7061-9813 of

12 chapter 154 of the acts of 2018. The department shall report the results of the study to the chairs
13 of the joint committee on education and the house and senate chairs of the committees on ways
14 and means, on or before January 1, 2020.