

SENATE No. 248

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

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:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>

SENATE No. 248

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 248) of Joanne M. Comerford, Natalie M. Blais and Mindy Domb for legislation to evaluate providing additional educational assistance to school districts with low or declining enrollment. 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 SECTION 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall conduct a
2 feasibility study of establishing an adjustment to the formula for aid to be allocated to school
3 districts with low or declining enrollment as a component of the foundation budget process. The
4 study shall examine the impact of fixed labor and material costs that do not vary relative to the
5 number of students on the ability of schools with low or declining enrollment to provide a quality
6 education to their students. The study shall consider options for a formula adjustment, including
7 use of a low or declining enrollment adjustment factor applied in a manner similar to the wage
8 adjustment factor. The study shall examine the feasibility of such a formula applied to a range of
9 districts, including pre-K to 12 or K-12, non-vocational and non-charter school districts with
10 enrollments of 1,300 students or fewer. The study shall also evaluate how a low or declining
11 enrollment adjustment factor would impact schools receiving rural school aid under item 7061-
12 9813 of chapter 154 of the acts of 2018. The department shall report the results of the study to

- 13 the chairs of the joint committee on education and the house and senate chairs of the committees
- 14 on ways and means, on or before January 1, 2020.