

SENATE No. 279

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Diana DiZoglio, (BY REQUEST)

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 an expert panel on gifted children and their education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Julie Eidukonis</i>		
<i>Dean A. Tran</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

SENATE No. 279

By Ms. DiZoglio (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 279) of Julie Eidukonis and Dean A. Tran for legislation relative to an expert panel on gifted children and their education. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to an expert panel on gifted children and their education.

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. (a) There shall be a gifted education expert panel to develop
2 recommendations to ensure gifted students in the commonwealth are being educated and
3 developed appropriately within the public education system and are thereby provided the
4 opportunity to reach their full potential and to lead lives as participants in the political and social
5 life of the commonwealth and as contributors to its economy. The panel shall consist of 9
6 members: the secretary of education, who shall serve as co-chair, and 8 persons appointed by the
7 secretary, in collaboration with the commissioners of early education and care, elementary and
8 secondary education and higher education, who shall be experts on gifted education; provided,
9 however, that 4 shall be selected from a list provided to the secretary from the chairs of the joint
10 committee on education and the chairs of the joint committee on higher education, and that 1
11 shall be selected from a list provided to the secretary from the Massachusetts Association for
12 Gifted and Talented Education. Panel members shall each be appointed for a term of 4 years. The
13 panel shall designate a co-chair every new term. No member, with the exception of the secretary,

14 shall serve for more than 2 consecutive terms. The members of the panel shall serve without
15 compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred in the
16 performance of their duties. Panel members shall not be, by virtue of their membership, state
17 employees under chapter 268A of the General Laws. The panel shall meet not less than 4 times
18 annually for the first 4 years. After the first 4 years, the panel co-chairs shall determine the time
19 period in which the panel shall continue to meet. (b) The panel shall advise the departments of
20 early education and care, elementary and

21 secondary education and higher education and the executive office of education on the
22 refinement and implementation of plans for gifted child development including, but not limited
23 to, education of the general populace regarding gifted children, appropriate strategies to identify
24 and serve gifted children to meet their unique educational and other developmental needs,
25 including the activities and programs offered by the education collaboratives, district and school
26 assistance centers, and readiness centers to support gifted education for children from age three
27 through college, inclusive. The panel shall make recommendations to the secretary and the
28 commissioners of early education and care, elementary and secondary education and higher
29 education on the alignment, coordination and implementation of including, but not limited to, the
30 following areas: (1) strategies for evaluating the effectiveness of academic, social and emotional
31 curricula on the unique academic, developmental and psychological needs of gifted children, that
32 (i) is anchored in rich content; (ii) uses a wide variety of types of activities to support content
33 under study; (iii) emphasizes the role of community interaction in promoting social skills; and
34 (iv) contains a balanced instructional design focused on developing academic, social, and
35 emotional skills. (2) effective instructional practices to promote gifted children's understanding
36 of unique social and emotional feelings and experiences. (3) pre-service and in-service

37 professional development and training for educators on gifted education children, over-
38 sensitivities commonly experienced by many, the administration of screenings and assessments,
39 and the analysis of data gained through screenings and assessments to make instructional
40 decisions to improve the academic, social, and emotional skill acquisition in young children; (4)
41 developmentally appropriate screening and assessment to identify, monitor and report on gifted
42 children's progress toward achieving benchmarks in developmental skills such as sociability,
43 emotional regulation, organization, time management, persistence, resilience, productive use of
44 coaches, compensatory skills, and learning how to experience and react to failure, across
45 educational levels from age three to college, inclusive; (5) family partnership strategies for
46 improving the quality, frequency and efficacy of homeschool interactions to support gifted
47 children's development, as well as for building community capacity to support gifted children
48 within their families; and (6) action steps to implement the research-based recommendations
49 contained in reports written by experts in gifted child development, academically and otherwise.
50 (7) action steps to implement research-based recommendations contained in reports written by
51 experts in gifted education on student screening and teacher preparation methods with respect to
52 gifted children's needs including, but not limited to, highly or profoundly gifted and twice
53 exceptional students. The panel shall also advise on leveraging existing and new federal grant
54 opportunities and private funding to support gifted children from age three to college, inclusive.
55 Subject to appropriation, the secretary and commissioners of early education and care,
56 elementary and secondary education and higher education may appoint personnel necessary to
57 coordinate the activities of the panel and provide administrative support as needed.

58 SECTION 2. The secretary of education, in coordination with the gifted education panel
59 co-chair and the commissioners of early education and care, elementary and secondary education
60 and higher education, shall prepare and submit an annual report on the activities of the gifted
61 education panel in advising the departments. The report shall include information on the
62 alignment and collaboration between the 3 commissioners, as overseen by the secretary, on
63 gifted child development for children from age 3 to college, inclusive, and on teacher training
64 and professional development on gifted children, their education, and all subject areas
65 covered in clauses (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of section 1. The report shall also
66 include a description of all state and federal funding related to gifted education and the programs
67 such funding supports. The secretary shall submit the report not later than June 30 to the clerks
68 of the senate and the house of representatives, who shall forward the report to the senate and
69 house chairs of the joint committee on education and the senate and house chairs of the joint
70 committee on higher education. The report shall also be made available on the websites of the
71 departments of early education and care, elementary and secondary education and higher
72 education and on the website of the executive office of education.

73 SECTION 3. The gifted education expert panel shall conduct its first meeting not later
74 than 60 days after the effective date of this act.