

SENATE No. 43

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 establishing a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood education.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i> | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i> | |
| <i>Steven Ultrino</i> | <i>33rd Middlesex</i> | |
| <i>Joseph A. Boncore</i> | <i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i> | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Bruce E. Tarr</i> | <i>First Essex and Middlesex</i> | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Jennifer E. Benson</i> | <i>37th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>Mike Connolly</i> | <i>26th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>Denise Provost</i> | <i>27th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i> | <i>17th Worcester</i> | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i> | <i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i> | <i>2/1/2019</i> |
| <i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i> | <i>7th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/1/2019</i> |
| <i>Julian Cyr</i> | <i>Cape and Islands</i> | <i>2/4/2019</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> | <i>2/7/2019</i> |
| <i>Tram T. Nguyen</i> | <i>18th Essex</i> | <i>2/14/2019</i> |

SENATE No. 43

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 43) of James B. Eldridge, Steven Ultrino, Joseph A. Boncore, Bruce E. Tarr and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood education. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 38 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood 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 special commission entitled the Special Commission on
2 Whole Family Approaches to study and make recommendations concerning the implementation
3 of whole family systems in the commonwealth, as defined by focusing on creating opportunities
4 for and addressing needs of both vulnerable parents and children together.

5 (b) For the purposes of this commission, a “Whole Family Approach” shall mean an anti-
6 poverty strategy aimed at reducing chronic, multi-generational family poverty by getting better
7 outcomes for the child, parents, and community simultaneously. The commission shall: (1)
8 measure and account for outcomes for both children and their parents; (2) engage and listen to

9 the voice of families; (3) foster innovation and evidence together, (4) align and link systems and
10 funding streams, (5) prioritize intentional implementation, and (6) ensure equity.

11 (c) The commission shall consist of the following: the co-chairs of the joint committee on
12 children, families and persons with disabilities or a designee who shall serve as co-chairs; the co-
13 chairs of the joint committee on education or designee; the commissioner of early education and
14 care or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee;
15 commissioner of the department of higher education or a designee; commissioner of the
16 department of transitional assistance; secretary of labor and workforce development or a
17 designee; secretary of housing and economic development or designee; 6 persons to be appointed
18 by the commission co-chairs, 3 of whom shall be representatives of community-based
19 organizations that have experience working with youth and families, 2 of whom shall be
20 representatives of research, educational, and philanthropic institutions specializing in education
21 including early childhood education, and 1 of whom shall be a representative of an organization
22 with interest in two-generation approaches.

23 (d) The commission shall: (1) solicit information and input from service providers,
24 families, educational institutions, and any other parties or entities the commission deems
25 appropriate; review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in other states and
26 codify the core components of a model whole family approach for parents and their children; (2)
27 establish a whole family school/employment readiness plan to promote long-term learning and
28 economic success for low-income families by addressing intergenerational barriers to school
29 readiness and workforce readiness with intensified workforce training and targeted education,
30 coupled with related support services; (3) study and make recommendations for inter-agency
31 resources and services and to best maximize existing state resources available to fund an

32 expansion of whole family approaches for parents and their children; (4) develop
33 recommendations to measure and evaluate progress for both children and their parents through
34 specified dual generation approaches that result in improved outcomes; (5) identify and make
35 recommendations for a new and sustainable funding source for whole family approaches; and (6)
36 establish a definition for “Whole Family Approach” for the commonwealth.

37 (e) Members of the commission shall be appointed and the commission shall commence
38 its work within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The commission shall report the results
39 of its study, together with any draft legislation necessary to implement whole family approaches
40 in the commonwealth by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and the house of
41 representatives and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education and the joint
42 committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, not later than one year after the
43 members of the commission are appointed.