

HOUSE No. 606

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kenneth I. Gordon

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 to address inequities the Massachusetts public school system.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/16/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 606

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 606) of Kenneth I. Gordon for an investigation by a task force (including members of the General Court) established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on educational inequities in Middlesex County. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to address inequities the Massachusetts public school system.

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) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
2 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish an educational inequities
3 task force. The task force shall implement a pilot program in all K-12 public schools in
4 Middlesex County to report on how students are disciplined and educated, and detect disparities
5 in treatment and academic success among students of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.
6 The task force shall report annually for no less than 10 years on the following metrics: (i) the
7 gender and race of the educators, (ii) student involvement in gifted programs, (iii) disciplinary
8 actions (iv) graduation rate, and (v) average GPA among groups.

9 (b) The task force shall administer a pilot training program for all educators at the K-12
10 public schools in Middlesex County. Educators shall be required to participate in 40 hours of
11 paid training per year on diversity, inclusion, and implicit bias. The task force shall make

12 recommendations on the content of the program, which may include: (i) formal training, (ii)
13 lectures, (iii) book discussions, and (iv) targeted discussion groups.

14 (c) The task force shall consist of 19 members: 2 of whom shall be the chairs of the joint
15 committee on education or their designees, who shall serve as co-chairs; 2 of whom shall be the
16 chairs of the joint committee on higher education, 4 of whom shall be members of the house of
17 representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house, 1 of whom shall be a member of the
18 black and latino caucus, 1 of whom shall be a member of the Massachusetts House Asian
19 Caucus; 2 of whom shall be members of the senate to be appointed by the senate president; 2 of
20 whom shall be appointed by the governor; 1 of whom shall be the president of the Massachusetts
21 Teachers Association, or a designee; 1 of whom shall be a member of the Boston Teachers
22 Union; 1 of whom shall be a member of the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance; 1 of
23 whom shall be the president of the Boston branch of the National Association for the
24 Advancement of Colored People New England Area Conference, or a designee; 1 of whom shall
25 be a member of a League of United Latin American Citizens Council in Massachusetts; and 2
26 professors at the University of Massachusetts appointed by the President of the University of
27 Massachusetts.

28 (d) Not later than December 31, 2027, the task force shall file a report analyzing the
29 preliminary data from the pilot program. The report shall be filed with the governor, the clerks of
30 the house of representatives and the senate, and the chairs of the joint committee on education.
31 The task force shall use the 2017 Disciplinary Report data from the US Department of Education
32 Office of Civil Rights as a comparison for relevant metrics and make policy recommendations
33 based on the findings.

34 (e) The task force shall file a final report no later than one year after the pilot program
35 ends on the data collected during the pilot program. The report shall be filed with the governor,
36 the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, and the chairs of the joint committee on
37 education. The task force shall analyze the data, assess the impact of the 40-hour training
38 program described in (b), identify notable trends in the data, and make policy recommendations
39 based on their findings.