

HOUSE No. 709

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chynah Tyler

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 commission on school segregation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 709

By Ms. Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 709) of Chynah Tyler and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) on school segregation. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a commission on school segregation.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a
2 commission on school segregation in the commonwealth. The commission shall consist of 20
3 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education, or their designees,
4 who shall serve as the co-chairs of the commission; the house and senate chairs of the joint
5 committee on housing, or their designees; 2 of whom shall be appointed by the governor, one of
6 whom shall be a teacher and one of whom shall be an alumnus of the METCO program; 1 of
7 whom shall be chosen by the chair of the Black & Latino Legislative Caucus; 1 of whom shall be
8 a superintendent chosen by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; 1 of whom
9 shall be a school committee member chosen by the Massachusetts Association of School
10 Committees; 1 of whom shall be chosen by the Bridges Collaborative at the Century Foundation;
11 1 of whom shall be chosen by the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education; 1 of whom
12 shall be chosen by Policy for Progress; 1 of whom shall be chosen by the Metropolitan Area
13 Planning Council; 1 of whom shall be chosen by the Smart Growth Alliance; 1 of whom shall be

14 a parent chosen by Massachusetts Parent United; 1 of whom shall be chosen by the Urban
15 League of Springfield; 1 of whom shall be chosen by the Boston Branch of the NAACP; 1 of
16 whom shall be chosen by Latinos for Education; 1 of whom shall be chosen by the Lawyers
17 Committee for Civil Rights; and 1 of whom shall be chosen by the Education Trust.

18 The commission shall: (i) assess the current state and historical trends of school
19 segregation in Massachusetts, both within districts and across district boundaries, (ii) identify
20 current and historical programs the Commonwealth or individual districts have used to increase
21 school integration, (iii) identify successful efforts to increase school integration in other states,
22 (iv) identify laws, regulations, and administrative directives that hinder the ability of the state or
23 individual districts to pursue school integration, (v) develop recommended policy changes to
24 advance the goal of school integration in the Commonwealth. In developing its
25 recommendations, the commission shall consider the impact of such recommendations on
26 educational equity and prioritize proposals that expand educational opportunity in historically
27 disadvantaged communities.

28 The commission shall consult with and solicit input from various persons and groups,
29 including, but not limited to: (i) the department of elementary and secondary education; (ii) the
30 executive office of housing and economic development; (iii) the student advisory council; (iv)
31 any other parties or entities the commission deems appropriate.

32 The first meeting of the commission shall take place within 60 days of the effective date
33 of this act. The commission shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations,
34 including legislative recommendations, if any, with the clerks of the house and senate not later
35 than 12 months following the first meeting of the commission. Prior to issuing its

36 recommendations, the commission shall conduct at least five public hearings to receive
37 testimony from members of the public, at least one of which shall take place in Boston, at least
38 one of which shall take place in Worcester, and one of which shall take place in Springfield.