

**SENATE . . . . . No. 297**

**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 responding to the COVID-19 emergency by instituting a moratorium on the administration of the MCAS test for the 2020-2021 school year.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>3/1/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>3/4/2021</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/16/2021</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>

<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>3/23/2021</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>3/26/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/26/2021</i>
<i>Meghan Kilcoyne</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>3/26/2021</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>3/29/2021</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>4/4/2021</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>4/11/2021</i>
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	<i>4/20/2021</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>5/11/2021</i>

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By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 297) of Joanne M. Comerford, Mindy Domb, Maria Duaine Robinson, Christina A. Minicucci and other members of the General Court for legislation to respond to the COVID-19 emergency by instituting a moratorium of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 2814 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act responding to the COVID-19 emergency by instituting a moratorium on the administration of the MCAS test for the 2020-2021 school year.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to establish forthwith a moratorium on the administration of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System in response to the COVID-19 emergency, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*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, the  
2 commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall submit to the United States  
3 Department of Education a request that the Commonwealth’s statewide assessment,  
4 accountability and reporting requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act be  
5 waived for the 2020-2021 school year. The request shall be made pursuant to section 8401 of the  
6 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and shall include a request to waive the assessment

7 requirements in section 1111(b)(2); the accountability and school identification requirements in  
8 sections 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(2)(C)-(D); and the report card provisions related to assessments  
9 and accountability in section 1111(h).

10 SECTION 2. Upon receipt of a waiver under section 1 or any other authority under  
11 federal law, rule or regulation, notwithstanding sections 1D and 1I of chapter 69 of the General  
12 Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the department of elementary and  
13 secondary education shall not administer, implement or use the Massachusetts Comprehensive  
14 Assessment System exam for any purpose for the 2020-2021 school year.