

HOUSE No. 594

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven Ultrino and Paul J. Donato

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 ensuring openness and responsibility in the charter school renewals .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/12/2023</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 594

By Representatives Ultrino of Malden and Donato of Medford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 594) of Steven Ultrino and Paul J. Donato relative to charter school renewals. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act ensuring openness and responsibility in the charter school renewals .

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. Section 1F of chapter 15 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3 The board shall not authorize the commissioner to act on its behalf in granting charter
4 renewals, including charter renewals that do not involve probation.

5 SECTION 2. Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
6 amended by striking out subsection (dd) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

7 (dd) (1) A charter granted by the board shall be for 5 years. The board shall develop
8 procedures and guidelines for revocation and renewal of a school's charter; provided, however,
9 that a charter for a Horace Mann charter school shall not be renewed by the board without a
10 majority vote of the school committee and local collective bargaining unit in the district where
11 said charter school is located; provided further, that a commonwealth charter shall not be
12 renewed unless the board of trustees of the charter school has documented in a manner approved

13 by the board that said commonwealth charter school has provided models for replication and best
14 practices to the commissioner and to other public schools in the district where the charter school
15 is located.

16 (2) When deciding on charter renewal, the board shall consider progress made in student
17 academic achievement, whether the school has met its obligations and commitments under the
18 charter, the extent to which the school has followed its recruitment and retention plan by using
19 deliberate, specific strategies towards recruiting and retaining the categories of students
20 enumerated in paragraph (3) of subsection (i) and the extent to which the school has enhanced its
21 plan as necessary. The board may impose conditions on the charter school upon renewal if it fails
22 to adhere to and enhance its recruitment and retention plan as required. When deciding on charter
23 renewal, the board shall take into account the annual attrition of students. The board shall also
24 consider innovations that have been successfully implemented by the charter school and the
25 evidence that supports the effectiveness of these practices. Upon renewal of its charter, a school
26 shall update and enhance its recruitment and retention plan as necessary to account for changes
27 in enrollment.

28 (3) The decision by the board to renew a school's charter shall be based upon the
29 presentation of affirmative evidence, in accordance with 603 CMR 1.11 (2). The presentation of
30 affirmative evidence shall be made available to the public by the board at least 30 days prior to
31 the vote to renew a school's charter, in accordance with sections 18 to 25, inclusive, of chapter
32 30A and the clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4.

33 (4) The board shall solicit public comment for a period of at least 30 days prior to the
34 board's vote to renew a school's charter. The board shall review all material submitted in support
35 of or in opposition to the charter renewal prior to a renewal vote.

36 SECTION 3. The department of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate
37 regulations or amend 603 CMR 1.11 to implement this act within 120 days of its passage.