

**SENATE . . . . . No. 286**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Adam Gomez*

*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 diversity in public education.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:               | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:     |                  |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Adam Gomez</i>   | <i>Hampden</i>        |                  |
| <i>Vanna Howard</i> | <i>17th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/31/2023</i> |

**SENATE . . . . . No. 286**

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By Mr. Gomez, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 286) of Adam Gomez and Vanna Howard for legislation to ensure diversity in public education. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 338 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act ensuring diversity in public 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. Section 38G of Chapter 71, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by striking the twelfth paragraph in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following new paragraph:-

4 To be eligible for certification as a provisional educator, the candidate shall (1) hold a  
5 bachelor's degree in arts or sciences from an accredited college or university with a major course  
6 in the arts or sciences appropriate to the instructional field; (2) pass a test or satisfy alternative  
7 measures of proficiency established by the board; provided, that if the candidate chooses to take  
8 a test, that test shall consist of two parts: (A) a writing section which shall demonstrate the  
9 communication and literacy skills necessary for effective instruction and improved  
10 communication between school and parents; and (B) the subject matter knowledge for the

11 certificate; provided further, that in providing an alternative to the test, the board shall consider:  
12 (A) the candidate's proficiency in communication and literacy skills and (B) in subject matter  
13 knowledge for the certificate; and (3) be of sound moral character. Candidates who complete the  
14 requirements in this paragraph shall be issued provisional educator certificates which will permit  
15 them to seek employment in teaching positions requiring instructional certification in districts  
16 which have an approved provisional educator preparation program.

17 SECTION 2. Said section 38G of Chapter 71, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,  
18 is hereby further amended by striking the eighteenth paragraph in its entirety and inserting in  
19 place thereof the following new paragraph:-

20 To be eligible for certification as a provisional educator with advanced standing, the  
21 candidate shall provide evidence that he (1) holds a bachelor's degree in arts or sciences from an  
22 accredited college or university with a major course in the arts or sciences appropriate to the  
23 instructional field or the equivalent baccalaureate degree; (2) pass a test or satisfy alternative  
24 measures of proficiency established by the board; provided, that if the candidate chooses to take  
25 a test, that test shall consist of two parts: (A) a writing section which shall demonstrate the  
26 communication and literacy skills necessary for effective instruction and improved  
27 communication between school and parents; and (B) the subject matter knowledge for the  
28 certificate; provided further, that in providing an alternative to the test, the board shall consider:  
29 (A) the candidate's proficiency in communication and literacy skills and (B) in subject matter  
30 knowledge for the certificate; and (3) has satisfactorily completed a board of education approved  
31 teacher preparation program; and (4) is of sound moral character. A candidate who completes the  
32 requirements of this paragraph shall be issued a provisional educator certificate with advanced

33 standing which will permit him to seek employment in a teaching position requiring instructional  
34 certification.

35 SECTION 3. Section 18 of Chapter 74, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is  
36 hereby amended by striking the first paragraph in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the  
37 following new paragraph:-

38 The state board shall establish basic competency-based vocational-technical teacher  
39 training standards which shall serve as the fundamental, pedagogical requirements for beginning  
40 vocational-technical instructors. The board shall further require that all persons seeking to meet  
41 the board's requirements shall have successfully passed performance and written tests in areas as  
42 determined by the board or shall have satisfied alternative measures of proficiency established by  
43 the board and shall have successfully completed an approved seminar on teaching skills and  
44 methods.