

HOUSE No. 632

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 furthering enrollment preferences for high need students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Shirley B. Arriaga</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>	<i>10/6/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 632

By Representatives Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose and Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 632) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian and Alice Hanlon Peisch relative to enrollment preferences for high need students at commonwealth charter schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act furthering enrollment preferences for high need students.

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. Subsection (n) of section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second
3 paragraph the following paragraph:-

4 Subject to regulations promulgated by the board, commonwealth charter schools may
5 voluntarily offer enrollment preferences to certain high needs students, including but not limited
6 to, students with special needs, English learners, students in foster care or previously in foster
7 care, or other at-risk students, and may enroll said students at any time during the school year.
8 Said enrollment preferences shall apply both to students who are admitted through the lottery and
9 students admitted off of the waitlist pursuant to this section.

10 SECTION 2. The board of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules
11 and regulations to implement the provisions of this act. At a minimum, such regulations shall

12 define the specific student subgroups that will be eligible for enrollment preferences authorized
13 under Section 1, and the process for implementing said enrollment preferences; provided that
14 students experiencing homelessness and students who have been identified as Students with
15 Emergency Resettlement Status may be included in the list of specific student subgroups that
16 will be eligible for said enrollment preferences.