

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 670**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Alice Hanlon Peisch*

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*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 relative to special education finance.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 670**

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By Representative Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 670) of Alice Hanlon Peisch relative to special education finance. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 547 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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An Act relative to special education finance.

*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 1B of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the seventh paragraph the following  
3 paragraph:-

4           The board shall annually publish a supplemental report containing student achievement  
5 data for each approved private special education school or program, provided that such data shall  
6 include student performance on the statewide assessment system approved by the board under  
7 section 1I.

8           SECTION 2. Section 8 of chapter 70B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
9 amended by striking out, in line 24, the word “and”.

10 SECTION 3. Said section 8 of said chapter 70B, as so appearing, is hereby further  
11 amended by inserting in line 28, after the word “districts” the following:-

12 “; and (9) priority shall be given to projects needed in the judgment of said authority to  
13 create space for in-district special education programs and services”

14 SECTION 4. Section 10 of said chapter 70B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
15 inserting, in line 44, after the sentence ending in the word “construction”, the following new  
16 sentence:-

17 “The authority shall award incentive points for projects that include spaces for in-district  
18 special education programs and services, including special education programs and services  
19 provided by education collaboratives pursuant to section 4E of chapter 40 for public school  
20 districts within public school buildings.”

21 SECTION 5. Chapter 71B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
22 section 10 the following new section:-

23 Section 10A. Each approved private special education school or program authorized  
24 under this chapter to provide special education services to children, and that enrolls students  
25 funded by the commonwealth or its political subdivisions, shall file annual reports with the  
26 department of elementary and secondary education. Each approved private special education  
27 school or program shall annually prepare, financial statements, including: (1) a statement of net  
28 assets; (2) a statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in net assets; and (3) such  
29 supplemental statements and schedules that may be required by the department. Each school  
30 shall annually cause an independent audit to be made of its financial statements consistent with  
31 the generally accepted governmental auditing standards. Each school shall file the audit report

32 and any related management letters annually on or before January 1, for the previous fiscal year  
33 with the department and the state auditor, and shall submit a copy of the audit report and any  
34 related management letters to each school district that enrolled students in said approved private  
35 special education school during the period covered by the audit report.

36 The audited financial statements, accompanying notes and schedules shall disclose, but  
37 not be limited to: (1) transactions between the approved private special education school and any  
38 related for profit or non-profit organization; (2) transactions or contracts related to the purchase,  
39 sale or lease of real property; (3) the names, duties and total compensation of the 5 most highly  
40 compensated employees; (4) the amounts expended on administration and overhead; (5)  
41 information on programs and services provided by the school, including the cost effectiveness of  
42 such programs and services; and (6) any other items that may be required by regulation.

43 SECTION 6. The department of early education and care and the department of  
44 elementary and secondary education may share data only for residential programs approved by  
45 both departments.

46 SECTION 7. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the secretary of  
47 education shall, in consultation with the department of elementary and secondary education, the  
48 department of early education and care, and the operational services division, study and make  
49 recommendations regarding the oversight of Approved Massachusetts Day and Residential  
50 Private Special Education Programs.

51 The recommendations shall provide information on topics including, but not limited to:  
52 (1) best practices of licensing, monitoring and providing oversight of Approved Massachusetts  
53 Day and Residential Private Special Education Programs (Chapter 766 schools); (2) the

54 collection of data related to providing appropriate educational programming; (3) the collection of  
55 data related to providing the most appropriate services to students in chapter 766 schools; (4)  
56 consideration of the relevant aspects of the statute governing education collaboratives, as defined  
57 in section 4E of Chapter 40, and their potential application to chapter 766 schools; and (5) the  
58 collection of data relevant to the structure for congregate care for the students and review of the  
59 appropriate agency placement policies.

60 In developing recommendations, the secretary of education, the department of elementary  
61 and secondary education, the department of early education and care, and the operational  
62 services division shall consult with and solicit input from various persons and groups, including  
63 but not limited to, the department of developmental services; the division of local services, the  
64 executive directors of chapter 766 schools of varying size and scope throughout the  
65 commonwealth; organizations representing individuals with developmental disabilities; district  
66 directors of special education throughout the commonwealth; organizations representing children  
67 with disabilities and their parents; and associations representing special education administrators  
68 and other educational administrators, school officials, and municipal officials.

69 The secretary of education shall file findings containing recommendations, including  
70 legislation and regulations necessary to carry out the recommendations, with the clerks of the  
71 house of representatives and senate not later than 12 months following the passage of this act.