

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 foundation budget review commission permanence.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 510 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to foundation budget review commission permanence.

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 4 of chapter 70 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking section 4 in its entirety, and inserting in place
3 thereof the following section:-

4 Section 4. There shall be a foundation budget review commission to review, every 5
5 years, the way foundation budgets are calculated and to make recommendations for potential
6 changes in those calculations as the commission deems appropriate. In conducting such review,
7 the commission shall seek to determine the educational programs and services necessary to
8 achieve the commonwealth's educational goals and to prepare students to achieve passing scores
9 on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System examinations or other designated
10 statewide assessments. The review shall include, but not be limited to, those components of the
11 foundation budget created pursuant to section 3 of chapter 70 and subsequent changes made to

12 the foundation budget by law. In addition, the commission shall seek to determine and
13 recommend measures to promote the adoption of ways in which resources can be most
14 effectively utilized and consider various models of efficient and effective resource allocation. In
15 carrying out the review, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall provide
16 to the commission any data and information the commissioner considers relevant to the
17 commission's charge.

18 The commission shall include the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
19 education, who shall serve as co-chairs, the secretary of education, the commissioner of
20 elementary and secondary education, the commissioner of early education and care, the speaker
21 of the house of representatives or a designee, the president of the senate or a designee, the
22 minority leader of the house of representatives or a designee, the minority leader of the senate or
23 a designee, the governor or a designee, the chair of the house committee on ways and means or a
24 designee, the chair of the senate committee on ways and means or a designee and 1 member to
25 be appointed by each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts Municipal Association,
26 Inc., the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, Inc., the Massachusetts Association of
27 School Committees, Inc., the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Inc., the
28 Massachusetts Teachers Association, the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, the
29 Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc., the Massachusetts Association of
30 Regional Schools, Inc. and the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials.
31 Members shall not receive compensation for their services but may receive reimbursement for
32 the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities as members of the
33 commission. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall furnish reasonable
34 staff and other support for the work of the commission. Prior to issuing its recommendations, the

35 commission shall conduct not fewer than 4 public hearings across regions of the commonwealth.
36 The commission shall be considered a special commission established by section 2A of chapter 4
37 and shall be subject to the provisions of said section 2A of chapter 4. It shall not constitute a
38 violation of chapter 268A for state employee or a person employed by a school district to serve
39 on the commission or to participate in commission deliberations that may have a financial impact
40 on the district employing that person, on the commonwealth, or on the rate at which that person
41 may be compensated. The commission may establish procedures to ensure that no such person
42 participates in commission deliberations that may directly affect the school districts employing
43 those persons or that may directly affect the rate at which those persons are compensated.

44 SECTION 2. The first report pursuant to this act shall be filed on or before November 1,
45 2025.