

SENATE No. 407

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

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 creating a special commission to examine regional school education finance reform.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul W. Mark

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and
Hampshire*

SENATE No. 407

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 407) of Paul W. Mark for legislation to create a special commission to examine regional school education finance reform. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating a special commission to examine regional school education finance reform.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 There shall be a special commission governed by section 2A of chapter 4 of the General
2 Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, to assess and set standards for the default
3 apportionment formula used by regional school districts in their agreements as specified under
4 Section 14B of Chapter 71 and whether standards for apportionment should include the number
5 of students OR the total property values in a town.

6 The commission shall also recommend whether each town in the commonwealth shall be
7 mandated to either have its own school district or belong to a regional school district.

8 The commission shall file its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of
9 legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, with the clerks of the senate
10 and the house of representatives, the chairs of the senate and house committees on public service
11 and the chairs of the joint commission on education not later than December 1, 2026.

12 The commission shall consist of 1 member who shall be appointed by the senate
13 president, who shall serve as co-chair; 1 member who shall be appointed by the minority leader
14 of the senate; 1 member who shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives,
15 who shall serve as co-chair; 1 member who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the
16 house of representatives; the commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary
17 Education or a designee; the commissioner of the Department of Revenue or a designee; the
18 Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance or designee; 5 regional school
19 superintendents appointed by the Governor from regional schools in the commonwealth, and 1
20 member to be appointed by each of the following organizations: Massachusetts Association of
21 Regional Schools, Rural Policy Advisory Commission, Massachusetts Municipal Association.