

**SENATE . . . . . No. 442**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Rebecca L. Rausch***

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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 resolve:

Resolve establishing a special commission on special education funding.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Rebecca L. Rausch*

*Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 442**

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By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 442) of Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to establish a special commission on special education funding. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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Resolve establishing a special commission on special education funding.

1           **Resolved**, (a) There shall be a special legislative commission to investigate and study  
2 state funding of special education services in the commonwealth. The commission shall examine  
3 the chapter 70 funding formula and the special education circuit breaker program and investigate  
4 how to improve state funding of special education services.

5           (b) The commission shall consist of the following members: the secretary of education or  
6 his designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the department of elementary and  
7 secondary education, or his designee; the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on  
8 education, or their respective designees; 1 member appointed by the president of the senate, who  
9 shall be an advocate for individuals with disabilities; 1 member appointed by the speaker of the  
10 house, who shall have expertise in transportation of students with disabilities; 1 member  
11 appointed by the senate minority leader; 1 member appointed by the house minority leader; the  
12 president of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Federation of Teachers; the executive  
13 director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; the executive director of  
14 the Massachusetts Association of School Committees; the executive director of the

15 Massachusetts Association of Approved Special Education schools; and up to 3 additional  
16 individuals appointed by the chair.

17 (c) All appointments shall be made not later than 90 days after the effective date of this  
18 act.

19 (d) The commission shall make recommendations for: (i) changes to the chapter 70  
20 calculation of foundation aid to accommodate increases in inflation and costs; (ii) changes to the  
21 chapter 70 required local contribution calculation; (iii) raising the threshold for or removing the  
22 cap on local contributions under chapter 70; (iv) reforming the penalty for localities deemed  
23 below effort in their contributions; (v) improving the special education circuit breaker program  
24 to better supplement local funding; and (vi) other matters related to special education funding  
25 subject to the discretion of the commission.

26 (e) Not later than March 6, 2026, the commission shall submit its report and  
27 recommendations for proposed legislation to the senate and house committees on ways and  
28 means, the chairs of the joint committee on education, and the clerks of the house and senate.  
29 The department of elementary and secondary education shall publish the report on its website.