

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sal N. DiDomenico

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 commission to study the funding of high-quality early education and care in Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Sal N. DiDomenico

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Middlesex and Suffolk

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve establishing a commission to study the funding of high-quality early education and care in Massachusetts.

1 **Resolved**, that a special commission is hereby established to study and make
2 recommendations for adequately and equitably funding high-quality early education and care in
3 the Commonwealth so that all children build the foundational skills they need to thrive in school
4 and life.

5 Resolved, that the study shall determine the feasibility of creating a foundation budget for
6 early education and care. The scope of the study shall include all current and potential funding
7 streams for the continuation of the mixed-provider delivery of formal and informal programs for
8 infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children during out-of-school time. The study
9 shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas: (i) determine the true cost of delivering
10 high-quality early education and care in Massachusetts, taking into account provider type, age
11 group, region, high-need population levels, and fair staff wages; (ii) examine all existing and
12 potential funding streams including federal, state, local, philanthropic, employers, and families
13 and how best to coordinate them; (iii) explore the opportunity to build upon the Commonwealth
14 Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) through municipal, state and potentially private

15 investments to create increased access through local partnerships and collaborations; (iv) review
16 the successes and challenges of the utilization of the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3)
17 Grant Program by providers; (v) investigate methods to design funding streams to address
18 providers' underfunding or unmet needs such as child mental and behavioral health services,
19 early intervention and special education services, capital improvements, summer learning,
20 transportation, and other needs as determined by the commission; (vi) examine effective ways to
21 create diverse and robust career pathways for early educators, including cross-sectoral
22 approaches, apprenticeship opportunities, access to career training, accessible and equitable
23 credential and endorsement opportunities, and approaches to tie pathways to improving staff
24 compensation; and (viii) any other aspect related to the subject matter of the commission that the
25 commission deems necessary to fulfill its mandate. During its study, the commission shall
26 ensure that the voices and perspectives of diverse providers, parents, and vulnerable stakeholders
27 from the early education and care system are elevated and considered by all members.

28 Resolved, the commission shall consist of the following members or their designees: the
29 house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education, who shall serve as co-chairs; the
30 house and senate chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities;
31 1 member to be appointed by the president of the senate; 1 member to be appointed by the
32 speaker of the house; 1 member to be appointed by the chair of the senate committee on ways
33 and means; 1 member to be appointed by the chair of the house committee on ways and means;
34 the secretary of education; the commissioner of the department of early education and care; the
35 commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education; the commissioner of the
36 department of higher education; the secretary of the executive office of health and human
37 services; the secretary of the executive office of labor and workforce development; a

38 representative from the Massachusetts Association of Early Education and Care; a representative
39 of Strategies for Children; a representative from Neighborhood Villages; a representative from
40 United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley; a representative from Massachusetts
41 Early Education Funders Collaborative; Massachusetts Business Roundtable; a representative
42 from the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy; a representative from the
43 Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center; a representative from the Massachusetts Taxpayer's
44 Foundation; a representative from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents who
45 must also be from a current CPPI community; a representative from an advanced CPPI
46 community; a representative from the Massachusetts Head Start Association; a representative
47 from SEIU 509, which represents family child care providers; a representative from an
48 independent family child care program; a representative from the Massachusetts Resource and
49 Referral Network; a representative from the Massachusetts Municipal Association; a
50 representative from Care that Works; a representative of the Massachusetts Afterschool
51 Partnership, a representative from the Massachusetts Alliance of YMCAs; a representative of the
52 Massachusetts Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs; a representative from Massachusetts
53 Association for Community Action; and no more than 5 additional members to be appointed by
54 the co-chairs, at least one of whom shall represent parents and families.

55 Commissioners shall use principles of economic and social justice to guide their work
56 and shall collaborate with existing working groups and task forces. The commission shall create
57 findings and recommendations based on their study and should consider and recommend ways
58 that resources can be utilized most efficiently, effectively, and equitably.

59 All appointments should be made no later than 60 days after the effective date of this act.

60 Resolved, that not later than June 30, 2026, the commission shall issue a report with
61 findings and recommendations, including any legislative or regulatory changes that may be
62 necessary to implement these recommendations. The report shall be submitted to the clerks of
63 the house of representatives and senate, the joint committee on education, and the house and
64 senate committees on ways and means.

65 3000-XXXX For the operation of the commission established under this act, including
66 but not limited to, staffing and administrative expenses
67 \$100,000