

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1925**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Patricia A. Haddad*

*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 establishing a charter school working group.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Patricia A. Haddad*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*5th Bristol*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1925**

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By Ms. Haddad of Somerset, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1925) of Patricia A. Haddad for the establishment of a working group (including members of the General Court) to investigate and make recommendations relative to charter schools. Education.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act establishing a charter school working group.

*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. There is hereby established a charter school working group to study the  
2 financing of, caps imposed upon, and innovations promoted by charter schools authorized under  
3 the provisions of chapter 71, section 89. The working group shall also study the obstacles which  
4 have limited the broader utilization of the Horace Mann model of charter schools. The working  
5 group shall report its findings and conclusions to the general court and make recommendations  
6 regarding any necessary legislative and regulatory changes which are suggested by those  
7 findings and conclusions. The first meeting of the working group shall take place within 30 days  
8 after the effective date of this act.

9 SECTION 2. The working group shall consist of 13 members: 4 members of the senate; 1  
10 of whom shall be the president of the senate or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair of the  
11 working group; 1 of whom shall be the minority leader of the senate or a designee; 1 of whom  
12 shall be the senate chair of the joint committee on education; 1 of whom shall be the senate chair  
13 of the committee on ways and means; 4 members of the house of representatives; 1 of whom

14 shall be the speaker of the house of representatives or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair of  
15 the working group; 1 of whom shall be the minority leader of the house or a designee; 1 of whom  
16 shall be the house chair of the joint committee on education; 1 of whom shall be the house chair of  
17 the committee on ways and means; 1 of whom shall be the secretary of administration and  
18 finance or a designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of elementary and secondary  
19 education or a designee; and 3 members to be appointed by the governor, one of which shall be a  
20 superintendent of schools.

21 SECTION 3. In carrying out its charge, the working group shall examine, report on, and  
22 make recommendations regarding, the following matters:

23 a) the financing and reimbursement provisions of chapter 71, section 89(nn) and section  
24 89(pp) as a mechanism for the financing of charter schools;

25 b) the extent to which the reimbursement provisions of chapter 71, section 89(pp) are  
26 effective at minimizing the adverse financial impact of charter schools on sending school  
27 districts while providing sufficient resources for the successful operation of charter schools;

28 c) the obstacles to broader utilization of Horace Mann charters as a vehicle to achieve the  
29 objectives articulated in section 89(d);

30 d) the reasons for the transfer of students from charter schools back to local public  
31 schools, including students who are suspended or disenrolled;

32 e) the percentages of students who require special education, receive free and reduced  
33 lunch and are English Language Learners;

- 34 f) employment data such as average teacher salary and teacher and principal turnover
- 35 rates
- 36 g) infrastructure costs;
- 37 h) comparisons of IEP profiles between charters and public districts;
- 38 i) comparisons of non-English speaking students (LEP-1) at charters to districts;
- 39 j) the percentage of ELL and SPED students, particularly in comparison with percentage
- 40 of same students in their home communities;
- 41 k) current population thresholds; and,
- 42 l) the charter granting process.

43 SECTION 4. The working group shall solicit advice from such persons and entities as it  
44 deems necessary, including the department of education, associations representing  
45 superintendents, other educational administrators, teachers, school business officers, municipal  
46 officials and charter schools.

47 SECTION 5. The working group shall file a report containing its recommendations,  
48 including legislation and regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the joint  
49 committee on education and the clerks of the house and senate not later than 6 months following  
50 the first meeting of the working group.