SENATE No. 134

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act to form a commission on for-profit schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Karen E. Spilka	[District]
Chris Walsh	6th Middlesex
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Gloria L. Fox	7th Suffolk
Linda Dorcena Forry	12th Suffolk
Patricia D. Jehlen	[District]
Jennifer E. Benson	37th Middlesex
Michael F. Rush	Suffolk and Norfolk
Kenneth J. Donnelly	[District]
Sal N. DiDomenico	Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
James B. Eldridge	[District]
Thomas P. Kennedy	[District]
Thomas P. Conroy	13th Middlesex
Denise Andrews	2nd Franklin
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Susan C. Fargo	[District]

SENATE No. 134

By Ms. Spilka, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 134) of Karen E. Spilka, Chris Walsh, Denise Provost and other members of the General Court for legislation to form a commission on for-profit schools [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure].

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to form a commission on for-profit schools.

consumer advocacy group such as MassPIRG.

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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 is hereby established a special commission created for the purpose of 2 studying and making recommendations concerning the impact of proprietary schools receiving 3 public investments in the form of federal and state financial aid on residents of the 4 Commonwealth who are or have been enrolled in these institutions. The commission shall 5 consist of 16 members: 1 of whom shall be the undersecretary of consumer affairs and business 6 regulations or his designee, who shall serve as chair; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of 7 higher education or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the board of 8 elementary and secondary education or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the attorney general or 9 her designee; 2 of whom shall be the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on consumer 10 protection and professional licensure; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house; 11 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the 12 minority leader of the house; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 13 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Crittenton Women's Union; 1 of whom shall be a 14 representative of The Midas Collaborative. Four members shall be appointed by the 15 undersecretary of consumer affairs and business regulations; 1 of whom shall be a representative 16 of the general public who was enrolled or is currently enrolled in a for-profit college or proprietary institution in the Commonwealth, 2 of whom shall represent proprietary schools, 18 including one accredited school that is eligible to receive state and federal aid and one that is non-accredited and ineligible to receive state and federal aid and 1 of whom shall represent a

The commission shall include, but not be limited to, review of the organization of proprietary school oversight in Massachusetts; studying and making of recommendations for

23	possible cons	solidation of	oversight	authority	into a	single e	entity or	other effor	ts to 1	nrovide
23	possible colls	oniuation or	OVCISIZIIL	aumoni	, iiito a	Silizio C	illity OI	ouici ciioi	is it	provide

- 24 increased oversight; examination of the need for improved financial auditing procedures and
- 25 improved enforcement of relevant Massachusetts consumer protection laws, including, but not
- 26 limited to, the areas of advertising, recruitment, retention, financial aid practices, credit transfer
- 27 practices, and fees or penalties; an assessment of the adequacy of free or low-cost loan
- 28 counseling and legal support for Massachusetts residents in default on student loans; research
- 29 into the need for increased consumer education about proprietary schools and the financial
- 30 responsibilities associated with student loans; drafting recommendations to provide consumers
- 31 with greater transparency regarding schools' compliance with state and federal laws, loan default
- 32 rate, or schools which have been sanctioned in Massachusetts or in other states; making
- 33 recommendations with regard to requiring counseling of students considering financing their
- 34 proprietary school education in-part with loans.
- The commission shall be empowered to hold regular public meetings, fact-
- 36 finding hearings, and other public forums, as it considers necessary.
- The commission shall file its recommendations, together with
- 38 recommendations for legislation, if any, with the house and senate clerks who shall forward the
- 39 same to the general court no later than 2 years after the passage of this act. The commission
- 40 shall file a progress report, along with any recommendations for legislation prepared by that
- 41 time, no later than 1 year after passage of this act.