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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

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

PETITION OF:

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

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.

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 studying and making recommendations concerning the impact of proprietary schools receiving public investments in the form of federal and state financial aid on residents of the 3 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 regulations or his designee, who shall serve as chair; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of higher education or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the board of elementary and secondary education or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the attorney general or 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 minority leader of the house; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 12

1 of whom shall be a representative of the Crittenton Women's Union; 1 of whom shall be a

representative of The Midas Collaborative. Four members shall be appointed by the
undersecretary of consumer affairs and business regulations; 1 of whom shall be a representative
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,
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
consumer advocacy group such as MassPIRG.

21 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 22 23 possible consolidation of oversight authority into a single entity or other efforts to provide increased oversight; examination of the need for improved financial auditing procedures and 24 improved enforcement of relevant Massachusetts consumer protection laws, including, but not limited to, the areas of advertising, recruitment, retention, financial aid practices, credit transfer 26 practices, and fees or penalties; an assessment of the adequacy of free or low-cost loan 27 counseling and legal support for Massachusetts residents in default on student loans; research 28 29 into the need for increased consumer education about proprietary schools and the financial responsibilities associated with student loans; drafting recommendations to provide consumers 30 31 with greater transparency regarding schools' compliance with state and federal laws, loan default rate, or schools which have been sanctioned in Massachusetts or in other states; making recommendations with regard to requiring counseling of students considering financing their 33 34 proprietary school education in-part with loans.

The commission shall be empowered to hold regular public meetings, factfinding hearings, and other public forums, as it considers necessary. The commission shall file its recommendations, together with recommendations for legislation, if any, with the house and senate clerks who shall forward the same to the general court no later than 2 years after the passage of this act. The commission shall file a progress report, along with any recommendations for legislation prepared by that

time, no later than 1 year after passage of this act.

41