

SENATE No. 236

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 concerning financial literacy in schools..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Karen E. Spilka</i>	
<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

SENATE No. 236

By Ms. Spilka, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 236) of Swan, Moore, Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to financial literacy in schools [Joint Committee on Education].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 299 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven
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An Act concerning financial literacy in 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 SECTION 1. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 1N the following section:-

3 Section 1O. (a) In order to equip students with the knowledge and skills
4 needed to become self-supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding
5 personal finances, the Department of Education shall provide guidance and assistance in the
6 implementation of programs on teaching personal financial literacy. The components of personal
7 financial literacy covered in the program shall include, but not be limited to:

8 (1) understanding loans, borrowing money, interest, credit card debt,
9 and online commerce;

10 (2) understanding the financial impact and consequences of
11 gambling;

12 (3) rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home; and

13 (4) saving, investing and planning for retirement; and banking and
14 financial services.

15 (b) The Department shall incorporate personal financial literacy concepts and
16 skills within the existing mathematics framework. The Department shall encourage school
17 districts when selecting textbooks for mathematics, economics or similar courses, to select those
18 text books which contain substantive provisions on personal finance.

19 (c) The Department shall establish a financial literacy advisory group to:

20 (1) review the revision draft of the Mathematics Framework and
21 submit recommendations for the inclusion of personal financial literacy concepts and standards;

22 (2) assist the Department with a review of existing financial literacy
23 curriculum materials and programs;

24 (3) develop a plan for the dissemination of these recourses; and

25 (4) design a strategy for identifying and sharing best practices and
26 successful programs that effectively teach financial literacy concepts and skills.

27 The members of the financial literacy advisory group shall include, but not be
28 limited to, 3 educators, 2 leaders in the field of financial planning, 1 leader in the field of
29 banking, and 1 leader from the local college who teaches financial literacy or personal finance.

30 One committee member will serve as the chair, appointed by the commissioner of the
31 Department of Education. The advisory group, at its discretion, may select additional members
32 with relevant experiences including, but not limited to, representatives from insurance and
33 investment firms, real estate firms, and bankruptcy attorneys.