HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 536 FILED ON: 1/11/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 336

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer E. Benson

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 promote cost-effective, high quality in-district programs for students with disability.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*
Colleen M. Garry	*36th Middlesex*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*
Kate Hogan	*3rd Middlesex*
Thomas J. Calter	*12th Plymouth*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 536 FILED ON: 1/11/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 336

By Ms. Benson of Lunenburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 336) of Jennifer E. Benson and others relative to establishing a grant program to promote cost-effective, high quality in-district programs for students with disabilities. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *1040* OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to promote cost-effective, high quality in-district programs for students with disability.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Subject to appropriation the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop and administer a discretionary grant pilot program to provide monies to school districts to develop cost-effective and high quality models of in-district educational services and supports for students with disabilities currently enrolled in out-of-district programs and for students with disabilities identified by the district at risk for placement in more restrictive out-of-district programs. The goal of the grant program shall be for school districts to develop the capacity to educate children in their communities in the least restrictive environment in a high quality, cost effective program. The pilot program will reflect the diversity of the Commonwealth's schools, and will be limited to no more than six school districts, including two rural, two suburban and two urban school districts. The pilot demonstration program will run for at least three and no more than four years. The department shall issue a RFP no later than three months after the start of the first fiscal year to be disseminated statewide to all local school districts.

Each school district shall receive a grant to be used to design, plan, and administer the in-district program. School districts are may contract with private schools and collaboratives to provide consultation and programmatic expertise, support, and services necessary to develop capacity to serve students within the district. Funds can additionally be used for staff training, staff planning time and materials and technology. Funds may not be used to pay for salaries for

18 personnel employed or contracted by the school district in programs currently operating in the
19 district.

20 The first year of the grant pilot shall be devoted exclusively to planning, including but not
21 limited to involving parents from the community. The second and third years shall be devoted
22 to implementation, and the final year shall also be devoted to evaluation. The department shall
23 identify an evaluator at the outset of the program to design the intervention, establish the
24 methodology, and collect data from all the pilot programs to document and evaluate planning
25 costs and requirements, efficacy, operational successes and challenges, outcomes, and cost
26 effectiveness.

27 There shall be an advisory committee which shall assist the department in developing and
28 implementing this grant program. Members of the advisory committee shall include the
29 commissioner of the department of developmental services or designee, the commissioner of the
30 department of mental health or designee, and the commissioner of the mass rehabilitation
31 commission or designee, and one person selected by each of the following organizations: the
32 Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education, the Massachusetts Association of School
33 Superintendents, the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives, the
34 Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools, the Massachusetts Advocates for
35 Children, the Federation for Children with Special Needs, and the Disability Law Center.

36 The department and the advisory committee shall report to the house and senate
37 committees on ways and means and the joint committee on education on the status of the
38 project annually on August 31, with a final report at the conclusion of the demonstration which
39 reports findings on the efficacy of the pilot programs and makes recommendations to support
40 high quality cost-effective in-district programs statewide, including but not limited to any
41 recommendations on mechanisms for reimbursing special education costs.