

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 429**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Bradley H. Jones, Jr.***

*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 relative to a "parent trigger petition" at schools in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>George N. Peterson, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Viriato Manuel deMacedo</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Donald Humason</i>	
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>
<i>Nicholas A. Boldyga</i>	<i>3rd Hampden</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Daniel B. Winslow</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>Kevin J. Kuros</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Matthew A. Beaton</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>

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By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 429) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others relative to creating a "parent trigger petition" process at underperforming or chronically underperforming schools in the Commonwealth. Education.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen  
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An Act relative to a "parent trigger petition" at schools in the Commonwealth.

*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. Section 1J of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after subsection (w), the following new  
3 subsection:-

4 (w ½) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any underperforming  
5 or chronically underperforming public school that requires further improvement or has failed to  
6 improve, following the commissioner’s review as detailed in subsection (w), may be subject to  
7 further turnaround plans, as initiated by a petition signed by the parents of a majority of the  
8 students enrolled at said underperforming or chronically underperforming school.

9 If the commissioner is presented, in the time and manner specified by commissioner rule,  
10 a written petition signed by the parents of a majority of the students enrolled at said  
11 underperforming or chronically underperforming, specifying one or more of the actions  
12 described below by subdivisions (1) through (3), inclusive, that the parents request the  
13 commissioner to order, the commissioner shall, except as otherwise authorized by this  
14 subsection, order the specific action requested. If the school committee of the said district in  
15 which the underperforming or chronically underperforming school is located presents to the  
16 commissioner, in the time and manner specified by commissioner rule, a written request that the  
17 commissioner order specific action authorized by said subdivisions (1) through (3), inclusive,  
18 other than the specific action requested in the parents’ petition and a written explanation of the  
19 basis for the school committee’s request, the commissioner may order the action requested by the  
20 school committee.

21 Under this subsection, the commissioner shall have the authority to order the following  
22 actions:

23 (1) repurposing of the underperforming or chronically underperforming school;

24 (2) closure of the underperforming or chronically underperforming school; or

25 (3) educational choice, whereby students of the underperforming or chronically  
26 underperforming school are offered a monetary voucher to cover the cost of attendance at any  
27 private or other public school.

28 SECTION 3. This Act shall be effective beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.