

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1238**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Alice Hanlon Peisch*

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*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 early college high schools.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Alice Hanlon Peisch*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*14th Norfolk*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1238**

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1238) of Alice Hanlon Peisch for legislation to establish an early college education program to increase postsecondary completion rates and participation in career pathways. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2234 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to early college high 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 Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 39 the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 39A. (a) The commissioner of the department of higher education and  
4 commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education shall establish and  
5 administer an early college education program to increase postsecondary completion rates and  
6 participation in career pathways. The program shall consider applications for partnerships  
7 among public secondary institutions and public and private institutions of higher education to be  
8 designated as Massachusetts Early College Schools.

9 (b) Public secondary schools receiving such designation shall provide programs open to  
10 all enrolled students, on a space available basis, and shall not discriminate on the basis of race,  
11 color, national origin, creed, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical  
12 disability, age, ancestry, special needs, proficiency in the English language or academic  
13 achievement. A lottery shall be held if more students than available spots apply. There shall be  
14 no application fee or tuition charge for students participating in the program.

15 (c) The program shall allow for a minimum accumulation of 12 transferable college  
16 credits. Preference shall be given to programs offering at least one career pathway yielding an  
17 associate's degree or relevant industry credential. Academic courses offered in pathways that  
18 count for college credit may be taught by postsecondary faculty or by secondary teachers  
19 credentialed to teach postsecondary courses and shall include the transfer of any advanced  
20 placement courses taken by participating students who earn a qualifying score on the College  
21 Board advanced placement examination.

22 (d) The commissioner of the department of higher education and the department of  
23 elementary and secondary education shall establish the information required for an application  
24 for early college designation; provided that a description of a high-quality early college program  
25 shall include:

26 i. the primary entry point grade and at least one later entry point opportunity for  
27 other students and a plan for introducing the early college program and for preparing students for  
28 the transition into the program;

29           ii.       one or more potential student academic pathways, which shall include the  
30 sequence of courses and other curricular experiences, such as internships, necessary to fulfill  
31 both secondary and post-secondary requirements;

32           iii.       the process and guidance support by which students will be exposed to sufficient  
33 information to select the pathway best suited for them and provide options to change pathways  
34 during the course of study;

35           iv.       the school’s ability to partner with institutions of higher education to provide  
36 academic courses taught on postsecondary campuses, or where not logistically feasible, a plan to  
37 include postsecondary experiences;

38           v.        the plan to offer personalized academic advising and tutoring around the pathway  
39 to postsecondary completion, which must include specific provisions to address the particular  
40 needs of limited English proficient students and students with disabilities, and may include  
41 strategies to provide non-academic supports such as guidance counseling and financial literacy;  
42 and

43           vi.       the approaches to supporting participating students’ exposure to a variety of  
44 career opportunities, targeted workforce and career skills development, such as teamwork,  
45 communication, and interview preparation, and career counseling, and experiential and  
46 workplace learning, such as internships and mentorship.

47           (e) Each early college school shall enter into and maintain a memorandum of  
48 understanding with at least one institution of public or private higher education, which shall  
49 include, but not be limited to, how the program is sustainable on current funding plus anticipated  
50 annual state supplements for designated early colleges and the designated duties for each

51 institution, in the areas of program coordination, student support, faculty support, career  
52 partnership coordination and performance monitoring.

53 (f) An early college advisory committee shall be established to oversee the designation of  
54 applicants and be responsible for setting overall performance requirements and targeted  
55 enrollments for all participating programs. Such advisory committee shall consist of: the  
56 secretary of the executive office of education or a designee; 2 members of the board of  
57 elementary and secondary education, who shall be appointed by the chair of the board of  
58 elementary and secondary education; and 2 members of the board of higher education, who shall  
59 be appointed by the chair of the board of higher education. Individual programs may negotiate  
60 further requirements with the departments.

61 (g) Designations shall be for an initial period of five years, subject to review after the first  
62 three years, and renewable subject to performance. The department of elementary and secondary  
63 education shall, subject to appropriation, provide additional funding to participating programs for  
64 each participating student.

65 (h) Annually, by July 1, early college schools shall file a report with the commissioner of  
66 the department of higher education, the commissioner of the department of elementary and  
67 secondary education and the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on higher education  
68 on performance measures, including but not limited to, the following categories: (1) high school  
69 graduation rates of participating students; (2) percentage of participating students who complete  
70 the program; (3) percentage of participating students who gain any post-secondary credits; (4)  
71 percentage of participating students who gain at least 12 postsecondary credits; (5) percentage of

72 participating students in a 6-year cohort who attain an associate's degree; and (6) college and  
73 career outcomes of students.

74 (i) Not later than December 31, 2019, the commissioners of the departments of  
75 elementary and secondary education and the department of higher education shall promulgate  
76 rules and regulations necessary to implement this program.