

HOUSE No. 2050

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harold P. Naughton, 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 providing public school students opportunities to reach their full potential.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Harold P. Naughton, Jr.

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

12th Worcester

HOUSE No. 2050

By Mr. Naughton of Clinton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2050) of Harold P. Naughton, Jr. relative to the development of students capable of achieving beyond-grade-level and gifted and talented students. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act providing public school students opportunities to reach their full potential.

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. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
2 shall commission and deliver a report to the Legislature on the state of K-12 education in the
3 Commonwealth for students capable of achieving beyond-grade-level (in one or more content
4 areas) and gifted and talented students. Said report shall be produced by qualified professionals
5 in the field of gifted education. Said report shall seek to identify the level to which all such
6 students’ academic and social and emotional development needs are currently addressed in the
7 classrooms of the Commonwealth, and shall also identify separately the state of such education
8 opportunities particular to those students from disadvantaged populations. Said report shall make
9 recommendations to ensure all these students are likely to receive an education appropriate to
10 their needs in the future and shall separately report on the ranges of grades spanning K-2, 3-5, 6-
11 8, and 9-12.

12 SECTION 2. Section 1 of Chapter 69 of the General laws, as appearing in the 2016
13 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the phrase, “including a limited English
14 proficient student as defined in section 1 of chapter 71A,” the following words:

15 “ including a student achieving or capable of achieving beyond the traditional age-based
16 grade, including a gifted and talented student as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act
17 (ESSA), P.L. 114-95 (Title VIII, Part A, Definition 27); (20 USC 7801(27)), from (Title 20-
18 Education, Chapter 70-Strengthening and Improvement of Elementary and Secondary Schools,
19 Subchapter VIII-General Provisions, Part A-Definitions, (27)),”

20 SECTION 3. Chapter 69 Section 1A of the General Laws, as appearing in the Official
21 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following text at the end of the second paragraph.

22 “ There shall be within the department an office of beyond-grade-level and gifted and
23 talented education to assist the commissioner in overseeing and monitoring the development and
24 implementation of appropriate beyond-grade-level and gifted and talented education and assist
25 the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in meeting its obligations to gifted and
26 talented students under chapter 69 section 1B regarding gifted and talented students. The office
27 shall compile best practices relative to effective programs and techniques to assist beyond-grade-
28 level and gifted and talented students in receiving an education meaningful for them and shall
29 disseminate such information to school districts on an annual basis. The office shall be staffed
30 with at least one full-time position responsible for education of beyond-grade-level and gifted
31 and talented students. Said position shall be held by a person with qualifications, experience and
32 demonstrated expertise in the field of gifted education policy.”

33 SECTION 4. Chapter 70 of the General Laws, as appearing in the Official Edition, is
34 hereby amended by inserting the following new section:

35 “Section 16. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish a
36 professional development program which will provide to certain educators across the
37 Commonwealth, twelve hours of professional development in the specific field of the education
38 of gifted and talented students. Such professional development opportunities shall be required for
39 any educators, including administrators, whose classrooms, schools, or districts contain one or
40 more students identified, or could be identified as gifted and talented, as determined by a school
41 district professional or any other professional working in the field of psychology, gifted
42 education or who regularly provides services of educational assessments.”

43 SECTION 5. Chapter 71 Section 38G of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
44 Official Edition, shall be amended by inserting after the sentence, “In addition to any other
45 requirements in this section, in order to receive a provisional or standard educator certificate,
46 persons applying for such certification shall have completed such courses or training sessions as
47 the board shall require in second language acquisition” the following words:

48 “In addition to any other requirements of this section, in order to receive a provisional or
49 standard educator certificate, persons applying for such certification shall have completed such
50 courses or training sessions as the board shall require in gifted and talented education. The board
51 shall establish such requirements as recommended by generally accepted standards in the field of
52 gifted and talented education.

53 In addition to any other requirements of this section, the board shall require, as a
54 provision of an administrator's or an educator's initial certification, that all educators and

55 administrators shall have training in strategies for effective education of beyond-grade-level and
56 gifted and talented students.”

57 SECTION 6. Chapter 71 Section 38Q of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
58 Official Edition, shall be amended by inserting the words:

59 “ In any school district with gifted students, the plan shall provide training for
60 administrators and teachers in gifted education, and shall state how such training will support the
61 needs of gifted and talented students.”

62 after the sentence, “In any school district with limited English proficient students, the
63 plan shall provide training for teachers in second language acquisition techniques for the re-
64 certification of teachers and administrators.”

65 SECTION 7. Chapter 71 Section 38Q1/2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
66 Official Edition, shall be amended by inserting after the sentence ending in “under Chapter 71B”
67 the following words:

68 “The plan shall provide pathways of accommodations and interventions for beyond-
69 grade-level and gifted and talented students through the specification of curriculum compacting
70 and acceleration protocols for individual subjects or whole grade as appropriate for the student.”