

HOUSE No. 2838

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Antonio F. D. Cabral

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 to expand universal pre-kindergarten.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>

HOUSE No. 2838

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2838) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others for legislation to establish the universal pre-kindergarten commission. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to expand universal pre-kindergarten.

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 13 of chapter 15D of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following subsections:-

3 “(e) The Universal Pre-Kindergarten Commission.

4 (1) Establishment of the Commission. There shall be a special commission for the
5 purpose of making an investigation and study relative to how to expand universal pre-
6 kindergarten to provide pre-kindergarten to every pre-kindergarten aged child in the
7 Commonwealth, which shall be known as the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Commission (in this
8 subsection referred to as the ‘commission’).

9 (2) Members. The commission shall be chaired by the commissioner of the department of
10 early education and care or the commissioner’s designee. The secretary of education or the
11 secretary’s designee and the commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary
12 education or the commissioner’s designee shall be members. The governor shall appoint 6

13 members, one of whom shall be nominated by Head Start Massachusetts, one of whom shall
14 have experience operating a private preschool, one of whom shall be a member of a teachers'
15 union or association, one of whom shall be nominated by the Massachusetts Association of
16 School Superintendents, Inc. and one of whom shall be nominated by the Massachusetts
17 Association of School Committees. The speaker of the house and the senate president shall each
18 appoint one member.

19 (3) Report Recommending Legislation.

20 (i) Deadline. The commission shall report its findings and any legislation necessary to
21 implement said findings to the governor, the clerks of the senate and house of representatives,
22 the senate and house of representatives committees on ways and means, the joint committee on
23 children, families and persons with disabilities and the joint committee on education by
24 December 31, 2018.

25 (ii) Contents of the Report. The commission report shall include an analysis of how to
26 best expand quality pre-kindergarten offerings in Massachusetts such that every 3 and 4 year old
27 child would be able to attend; how to pay for expanding pre-kindergarten offerings; the
28 appropriate ratio and combination of various types of pre-kindergarten programs to best serve
29 children throughout the state; and the best way to promote high quality educational curriculum,
30 child development and safety standards. In making its recommendations the commission shall
31 consider among other issues:

32 (A) the advantages and disadvantages including cost, parental preference and ease of
33 expansion of pre-kindergarten as provided by Head Start, public schools, programs licensed or
34 subsidized by the department of early education and care and private programs;

35 (B) the cost of expanding pre-kindergarten offerings according to the different program
36 models that are available, for example Head Start, public schools, programs licensed or
37 subsidized by the department of early education and care and private programs;

38 (C) the financial benefits of universal pre-kindergarten for education readiness and
39 greater employment opportunities for parents;

40 (D) the possibility of including pre-kindergarten students when calculating the
41 distribution of chapter 70 education funds;

42 (E) how to appropriately increase pre-kindergarten offerings over time while ensuring
43 quality of care and safety; and

44 (F) the optimum way to expand participation in the Quality Rating Information System
45 (or 'QRIS') or other curriculum standards programs adopted by Massachusetts, including
46 providing grants or other financial incentives for participation.

47 (f) Universal Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Funding. Notwithstanding subsection (c) of
48 section 10 of chapter 152 of the acts of 1997 or any other general or special law to the contrary,
49 no later than June 30 of each year, that portion of the balance in the Convention Center Fund
50 which the state treasurer has determined to exceed the amount necessary to satisfy the
51 requirement of sufficiency under said subsection (c) of said section 10 of said chapter 152, shall
52 be transferred to the department of early education and care to be used solely for the purpose of
53 expanding pre-kindergarten offerings.