

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 413**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Danielle W. Gregoire*

*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 resolve:

Resolve establishing a charter school commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Danielle W. Gregoire*

*4th Middlesex*

*Anne M. Gobi*

*5th Worcester*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 413**

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By Miss Gregoire of Marlborough, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 413) of Danielle W. Gregoire and Anne M. Gobi for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of the financing, caps imposed upon, and innovations promoted by charter schools. Education.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen  
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Resolve establishing a charter school commission.

1 Resolved,

2       There is hereby established a charter school commission to study the financing of, caps  
3 imposed upon, and innovations promoted by charter schools authorized under the provisions of  
4 chapter 71, section 89 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition. The  
5 commission shall also study the obstacles which have limited the broader utilization of the  
6 Horace Mann model of charter schools. The commission shall report its findings and conclusions  
7 to the general court and make recommendations regarding any necessary legislative and  
8 regulatory changes which are suggested by those findings and conclusions. The first meeting of  
9 the commission shall take place within 30 days after the effective date of this act.

10       The commission shall consist of: the speaker of the house of representatives, or his  
11 designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the president of the senate, or his designee, who shall  
12 serve as co-chair; the minority leaders of the house and senate, or their designees; the house and  
13 senate chairs of the joint committee on education; the chairs of the house and senate committee  
14 on ways and means; the secretary of Administration, or her designee; 3 appointees of the  
15 Governor, one of which shall be a superintendent of schools; and the Commissioner of  
16 Education, or his designee.

17       In carrying out its charge, the commission shall examine, report on, and make  
18 recommendations regarding, the following matters:

19       a) the appropriateness of the financing and reimbursement provisions of chapter 71,  
20 section 89(nn) and section 89(pp) as a mechanism for the financing of charter schools;

21           b) the extent to which the reimbursement provisions of chapter 71, section 89(pp) are  
22 effective at minimizing the adverse financial impact of charter schools on sending school  
23 districts while providing sufficient resources for the successful operation of charter schools;

24           c) the obstacles to broader utilization of Horace Mann charters as a vehicle to achieve the  
25 objectives articulated in section 89(d);

26           d) the reasons for the transfer of students from charter schools back to local public  
27 schools, including students who are suspended or disenrolled;

28           e) the percentages of students who require special education, receive free and reduced  
29 lunch and are English Language Learners;

30           f) employment data such as average teacher salary and teacher and principal turnover  
31 rates;

32           g) infrastructure costs;

33           h) comparisons of IEP profiles between charters and public districts;

34           i) comparisons of non-English speaking students (LEP-1) at charters to districts; and

35           j) the percentage of ELL and SPED students, particularly in comparison with percentage  
36 of same students in their home communities.

37           k) the efficacy and fairness of the charter school approval process as is currently used by  
38 DESE.

39           The commission shall solicit advice from such persons and entities as it deems necessary,  
40 including the department of education, associations representing superintendents, other  
41 educational administrators, teachers, school business officers, municipal officials and charter  
42 schools.

43           The commission shall file a report containing its recommendations, including legislation  
44 and regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the joint committee on  
45 education and the clerks of the house and senate not later than 6 months following the first  
46 meeting of the working group.