

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

INITIATIVE PETITION OF DEBORAH THERESE MCCARTHY AND
OTHERS.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

BOSTON, JANUARY 16, 2024.

Steven T. James
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Sir: — I herewith transmit to you, in accordance with the requirements of Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution an initiative petition for “A Law Requiring that Districts Certify that Students Have Mastered the Skills, Competencies and Knowledge of the State Standards as a Replacement for the MCAS Graduation Requirement,” signed by ten qualified voters and filed with this department on or before December 6, 2023, together with additional signatures of qualified voters in the number of 101,511, being a sufficient number to comply with the Provisions of said Article.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

AN INITIATIVE PETITION.

Pursuant to Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as amended, the undersigned qualified voters of the Commonwealth, ten in number at least, hereby petition for the enactment into law of the following measure:

HOUSE No. 4252

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act requiring that districts certify that students have mastered the skills, competencies and knowledge of the state standards as a replacement for the MCAS graduation requirement.

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority, as follows:

1 SECTION 1.

2 Section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,
3 is hereby amended by striking from the first sentence of sub-paragraph (i) the words, " , as
4 measured by the assessment instruments described in section one I." and replacing them with the
5 following: "by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's
6 district as showing mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state
7 academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school
8 tests described in section one I administered in 2023, and in any additional areas determined by
9 the board."

FIRST TEN SIGNERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>CITY OR TOWN</u>
Deborah Therese McCarthy	14 Meade Avenue	Hull
Willie Bodrick II	23 Moreland Street, # 2	Boston
Elizabeth J. Preval	278 Broadway, # 1	Arlington
Saul Ramos	21 Merrick Street, # 2	Worcester
Ruth Rodrigues-Fay	36 Upsala Street, # 202	Worcester
Dean E. Robinson	530 UM Linden	Amherst
Barbara E. Fields	43 Woodhaven Street	Boston
Naghely M. Guilamo	25 Baker Street	Malden
Cynthia A. Roy	63 Calumet Street	New Bedford
Lisa A. Guisbond	11A Gardner Road	Brookline

CERTIFICATE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Honorable William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
One Ashburton Place, Room 1705
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

RE: Initiative Petition No. 23-36: Initiative Petition for A Law Requiring
that Districts Certify that Students have Mastered the Skills,
Competencies and Knowledge of the State Standards as a Replacement
for the MCAS Graduation Requirement

Dear Secretary Galvin:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 48 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, I have reviewed the above-referenced initiative petition, which was submitted to me on or before the first Wednesday of August of this year.

I hereby certify that this measure is in proper form for submission to the people; that the measure is not, either affirmatively or negatively, substantially the same as any measure which has been qualified for submission or submitted to the people at either of the two preceding biennial state elections; and that it contains only subjects that are related or are mutually dependent and which are not excluded from the initiative process pursuant to Article 48, the Initiative, Part 2, Section 2.

In accordance with Article 48, I enclose a fair, concise summary of the measure.

Sincerely,

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL,
Attorney General.

Enclosure

Summary of 23-36.

This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests (or other statewide or district-wide assessments) in mathematics, science and technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma. Instead, in order for a student to receive a high school diploma, the proposed law would require the student to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology, and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.