

HOUSE No. 541

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harold P. Naughton, Jr. and James M. Kelcourse

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 creating an expert panel on gifted children and their education in the public schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>
<i>James M. Kelcourse</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 541

By Messrs. Naughton of Clinton and Kelcourse of Amesbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 541) of Harold P. Naughton, Jr. and others for legislation to establish an panel on gifted children and their education in public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating an expert panel on gifted children and their education in the public 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 SECTION 1. (a) There shall be a gifted education expert panel to develop
2 recommendations to ensure gifted students in the commonwealth are being educated and
3 developed appropriately within the public education system and are thereby provided the
4 opportunity to reach their full potential and to lead lives as participants in the political and social
5 life of the commonwealth and as contributors to its economy.

6 The panel shall consist of 9 members: the secretary of education, who shall serve as co-
7 chair, and 8 persons appointed by the secretary, in collaboration with the commissioners of early
8 education and care, elementary and secondary education and higher education, who shall be
9 experts on gifted education; provided, however, that 4 shall be selected from a list provided to
10 the secretary from the chairs of the joint committee on education and the chairs of the joint
11 committee on higher education, and that 1 shall be selected from a list provided to the secretary
12 from the Massachusetts Association for Gifted and Talented Education. Panel members shall

13 each be appointed for a term of 4 years. The panel shall designate a co-chair every new term. No
14 member, with the exception of the secretary, shall serve for more than 2 consecutive terms. The
15 members of the panel shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses
16 necessarily and reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties. Panel members shall not
17 be, by virtue of their membership, state employees under chapter 268A of the General Laws.

18 The panel shall meet not less than 4 times annually for the first 4 years. After the first 4
19 years, the panel co-chairs shall determine the time period in which the panel shall continue to
20 meet.

21 (b) The panel shall advise the departments of early education and care, elementary and
22 secondary education and higher education and the executive office of education on the
23 refinement and implementation of plans for gifted child development including, but not limited
24 to, education of the general populace regarding gifted children, appropriate strategies to identify
25 and serve gifted children to meet their unique educational and other developmental needs,
26 including the activities and programs offered by the education collaboratives, district and school
27 assistance centers, and readiness centers to support gifted education for children from age three
28 through college, inclusive. The panel shall make recommendations to the secretary and the
29 commissioners of early education and care, elementary and secondary education and higher
30 education on the alignment, coordination and implementation of, including, but not limited to,
31 the following areas:

32 (1) strategies for evaluating the effectiveness of academic, social and emotional curricula
33 on the unique academic, developmental and psychological needs of gifted children, that (i) is
34 anchored in rich content; (ii) uses a wide variety of types of activities to support content under

35 study; (iii) emphasizes the role of community interaction in promoting social skills; and (iv)
36 contains a balanced instructional design focused on developing academic, social, and emotional
37 skills.

38 (2) effective instructional practices to promote gifted children's understanding of unique
39 social and emotional feelings and experiences.

40 (3) pre-service and in-service professional development and training for educators on
41 gifted education children, over-sensitivities commonly experienced by many, the administration
42 of screenings and assessments, and the analysis of data gained through screenings and
43 assessments to make instructional decisions to improve the academic, social, and emotional skill
44 acquisition in young children;

45 (4) developmentally appropriate screening and assessment to identify, monitor and report
46 on gifted children's progress toward achieving benchmarks in developmental skills such as
47 sociability, emotional regulation, organization, time management, persistence, resilience,
48 productive use of coaches, compensatory skills, and learning how to experience and react to
49 failure, across educational levels from age three to college, inclusive;

50 (5) family partnership strategies for improving the quality, frequency and efficacy of
51 home-school interactions to support gifted children's development, as well as for building
52 community capacity to support gifted children within their families; and

53 (6) action steps to implement the research-based recommendations contained in reports
54 written by experts in gifted child development, academically and otherwise.

55 (7) action steps to implement research-based recommendations contained in reports
56 written by experts in gifted education on student screening and teacher preparation methods with
57 respect to gifted children's needs including, but not limited to, highly or profoundly gifted and
58 twice-exceptional students.

59 The panel shall also advise on leveraging existing and new federal grant opportunities
60 and private funding to support gifted children from age three to college, inclusive. Subject to
61 appropriation, the secretary and commissioners of early education and care, elementary and
62 secondary education and higher education may appoint personnel necessary to coordinate the
63 activities of the panel and provide administrative support as needed.

64 SECTION 2. The secretary of education, in coordination with the gifted education panel
65 co-chair and the commissioners of early education and care, elementary and secondary education
66 and higher education, shall prepare and submit an annual report on the activities of the gifted
67 education panel in advising the departments. The report shall include information on the
68 alignment and collaboration between the 3 commissioners, as overseen by the secretary, on
69 gifted child development for children from age 3 to college, inclusive, and on teacher training
70 and professional development on gifted children, their education, and all subject areas covered in
71 clauses (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of section 1. The report shall also include a
72 description of all state and federal funding related to gifted education and the programs such
73 funding supports. The secretary shall submit the report not later than June 30 to the clerks of the
74 senate and the house of representatives, who shall forward the report to the senate and house
75 chairs of the joint committee on education and the senate and house chairs of the joint committee
76 on higher education. The report shall also be made available on the websites of the departments

77 of early education and care, elementary and secondary education and higher education and on the
78 website of the executive office of education.

79 SECTION 3. The gifted education expert panel shall conduct its first meeting not later
80 than 60 days after the effective date of this act.