

HOUSE No. 543

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 relative to academic acceleration of K-12 students.

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>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</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>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>

HOUSE No. 543

By Messrs. Naughton of Clinton and Kelcourse of Amesbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 543) of Harold P. Naughton, Jr. and others relative to academic acceleration of students in kindergarten through grade twelve. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to academic acceleration of K-12 students.

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. Section 1B of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the twenty fifth paragraph, in lines 151-
3 167, the following paragraph:-

4 “The board of elementary and secondary education shall establish regulations regarding
5 the use of whole-grade and content-specific academic acceleration in the public schools of the
6 Commonwealth. Said regulations will authorize and provide a framework for school districts to
7 provide access to appropriate curriculum and instruction for students who demonstrate readiness
8 for academic content, skills or understanding at a level beyond the curriculum ordinarily taught
9 to students of a certain age. In developing said regulations, the department shall consider, at a
10 minimum, the following acceleration strategies:

11 (a) Single subject acceleration;

12 (b) Combined classes (multi-age);

- 13 (c) Online and correspondence courses;
- 14 (d) Concurrent or dual enrollment;
- 15 (e) Curriculum compacting;
- 16 (f) Credit by examination or prior experience;
- 17 (g) Competency/mastery based learning;
- 18 (h) Whole-grade acceleration (one or more);
- 19 (i) Self-paced instruction;
- 20 (j) Mentoring;
- 21 (k) Early graduation;

22 Said regulations shall require the use of a tool, such as the Iowa Acceleration Scale,
23 designed to take personal bias out of the decision-making process when considering a child for
24 acceleration, and to ensure that acceleration decisions are systematic, thoughtful, well-reasoned,
25 and defensible.”