

HOUSE No. 547

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 increasing access for vulnerable students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>
<i>David M. Nangle</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>

HOUSE No. 547

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 547) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others relative to granting enrollment preference to commonwealth charter schools to certain high needs students. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to increasing access for vulnerable 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. Subsection (n) of section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second
3 paragraph the following paragraph:-

4 Subject to regulations promulgated by the board, commonwealth charter schools may
5 voluntarily offer enrollment preferences to certain high needs students, including but not limited
6 to, students with special needs, English learners, or other at-risk students, and may enroll said
7 students at any time during the school year. Said enrollment preferences shall apply both to
8 students who are admitted through the lottery and students admitted off of the waitlist pursuant
9 to this section.

10 SECTION 2. The board of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules
11 and regulations to implement the provisions of this act. At a minimum, such regulations shall
12 define the specific student subgroups that will be eligible for enrollment preferences authorized

13 under Section 1, and the process for implementing said enrollment preferences; provided that
14 students who have been identified as Students with Emergency Resettlement Status may be
15 included in the list of specific student subgroups that will be eligible for said enrollment
16 preferences.