

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 568**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Marjorie C. Decker and Susannah M. Whipps***

*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 to place a moratorium on high stakes testing for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Edward R. Philips</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>

<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>3/23/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/25/2021</i>
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>3/26/2021</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>3/29/2021</i>

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By Representatives Decker of Cambridge and Whipps of Athol, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 568) of Marjorie C. Decker, Susannah M. Whipps and others for legislation to place a moratorium on certain elementary and secondary education testing during the COVID-19 state of emergency. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to place a moratorium on high stakes testing for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which are to establish forthwith a moratorium on the administration of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System and for associated graduation requirements and accountability measures, in response to the COVID-19 emergency, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
2 commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall submit to the United States  
3 Department of Education a request that the Commonwealth’s statewide assessment,  
4 accountability and reporting requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act be  
5 waived for one year or until the emergency declaration issued by the Governor, dated March 10,  
6 2020 is no longer in effect. The request shall be made pursuant to section 8401 of the Elementary  
7 and Secondary Education Act and shall include a request to waive the assessment requirements  
8 in section 1111(b)(2); the accountability and school identification requirements in sections

9 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(2)(C)-(D); and the report card provisions related to assessments and  
10 accountability in section 1111(h).

11 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding section 1I of chapter 69 of the General Laws or any other  
12 general or special law to the contrary, upon approval of the request referred to in the preceding  
13 paragraph of this section, the department of elementary and secondary education shall not  
14 administer the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System or any other named statewide  
15 standardized assessment in the 2020-2021 school year or until the emergency declaration issued  
16 by the Governor, dated March 10, 2020 is no longer in effect in order to address disruptions  
17 caused by the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19; provided  
18 further that no assessment shall be administered prior to action by the United States Department  
19 of Education on the waiver request referred to in the preceding paragraph.

20 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding subsection (i) of section 1D, for the 2020-2021 school year  
21 or until the emergency declaration issued by the Governor, dated March 10, 2020 is no longer in  
22 effect, the requirement that a student must demonstrate mastery of a common core of skills,  
23 competencies and knowledge as measured by Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System  
24 or any other named statewide standardized assessment as a condition for high school graduation  
25 shall be identical to the requirements utilized for the graduating class of 2020.