

HOUSE No. 642

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James M. Kelcourse and Meghan Kilcoyne

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 educator training on gifted children and their needs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James M. Kelcourse</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Meghan Kilcoyne</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/25/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 642

By Representatives Kelcourse of Amesbury and Kilcoyne of Northborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 642) of James M. Kelcourse, Meghan Kilcoyne and Gerard J. Cassidy that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education be authorized to establish a professional development program in gifted and talented children. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to educator training on gifted children and their needs.

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. Chapter 70 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting the following new section:

3 “Section 16. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish a
4 professional development program in gifted and talented education which will provide access to
5 certain educators across the Commonwealth, fifteen hours of professional development in the
6 specific field of the education of gifted and talented students. Fifteen hours of such professional
7 development shall be completed in any five year period for the renewal of licensure for any
8 educators, including administrators, whose classrooms, schools, or districts contain one or more
9 students identified, or who could be identified as gifted and talented as defined by federal law, or
10 as determined by a school district professional or any other professional working in the field of
11 psychology, gifted education or who regularly provides services of educational assessments.”

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 Section 38G of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
13 Official Edition, shall be amended by inserting after the sentence, “In addition to any other
14 requirements in this section, in order to receive a provisional or standard educator certificate,
15 persons applying for such certification shall have completed such courses or training sessions as
16 the board shall require in second language acquisition.” the following words:

17 “ In addition to any other requirements of this section, in order to receive a provisional or
18 standard educator certificate, persons applying for such certification shall have completed such
19 courses or training sessions as the board shall require in gifted and talented education. The board
20 shall establish such requirements as recommended by generally-accepted standards in the field of
21 gifted and talented education.

22 In addition to any other requirements of this section, the board shall require, as a
23 provision of an administrator's or an educator's initial certification, that all such educators and
24 administrators shall have training in strategies for the effective education of beyond-grade-level
25 and gifted and talented students as they are defined by federal law.”

26 SECTION 3. Chapter 71 Section 38Q of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
27 Official Edition, shall be amended by inserting the following text in the first paragraph, after the
28 sentence, “In any school district with limited English proficient students, the plan shall provide
29 training for teachers in second language acquisition techniques for the re-certification of teachers
30 and administrators.”

31 “ In any school district containing gifted and talented students as defined by federal law,
32 the plan shall provide training for administrators and teachers in gifted education, and shall state
33 how such training will support the needs of gifted and talented students. Each school district

34 shall report to the department, on an annual basis, the gifted education training provided by the
35 district, the number of educators in the district receiving such training and the total number of
36 hours received. Each school district shall report to the department, on an annual basis, the
37 specific ways in which its Title II Part A programs and activities shall address the learning needs
38 of gifted and talented students.is improving the education of gifted and talented students.”

39 SECTION 4. Chapter 71 Section 38Q of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
40 Official Edition, shall be amended by inserting the following sentence after the second sentence
41 of the second paragraph, which sentence ends with the words “limited English proficient
42 students.” the following text:

43 “ The plan shall include data that demonstrates, statewide and by school district, the types
44 of professional development provided for educators who work with beyond-grade-level, gifted
45 and talented, highly or profoundly gifted, including those with one or more disabilities.”