

SENATE No. 217

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 resolve:

Resolve establishing a commission on regional school district foundation budgets.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Harriette L. Chandler

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Worcester

SENATE No. 217

By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 217) of Harriette L. Chandler for legislation to establish a commission on regional school district foundation budgets. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

Resolve establishing a commission on regional school district foundation budgets.

1 **Resolved**, There shall be a commission to review the way that regional school districts
2 are funded and recommend a framework that better accounts for differences between the towns
3 that make-up these districts and how the funding is distributed. In conducting the review, the
4 commission shall seek to determine with respect to regional school districts the educational
5 programs and services necessary to achieve the commonwealth's educational goals and to
6 prepare students to achieve passing scores on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment
7 System examinations. The review shall include, but not be limited to, those components of the
8 regional school district foundation budget created pursuant to section 3 of chapter 70 and
9 subsequent changes made to the foundation budget by law. In addition, the commission shall
10 seek to determine and recommend measures to promote the adoption of ways in which resources
11 can be most effectively utilized and consider various models of efficient and effective resource
12 allocation. In carrying out the review, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education
13 shall provide to the commission any data and information the commissioner considers relevant to
14 the commission's charge.

15 The commission shall include: 1 member who shall be appointed by the senate president,
16 who shall serve as co-chair; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 1 member
17 who shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, who shall serve as co-
18 chair; 1 member who shall be appointed by the secretary of education; 1 member who shall be
19 appointed by the commissioner elementary and secondary education; and 6 members who shall
20 be appointed by the governor all of whom have experience working with a regional school
21 district, of whom 1 shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Association of Regional
22 Schools, 1 shall be a representative of the Massachusetts School Business Officials, 1 shall be a
23 representative of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, 1 shall be a representative of the
24 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and 1 shall be a representative of the
25 Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center. Members shall not receive compensation for their
26 services but may receive reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out
27 their responsibilities as members of the commission. The commissioner of elementary and
28 secondary education may furnish reasonable staff and other support for the work of the
29 commission. Before issuing its recommendations, the commission shall conduct not less than 4
30 public hearings across regions of the commonwealth. It shall not constitute a violation of chapter
31 268A for a person employed by a school district to serve on the commission or to participate in
32 commission deliberations that may have a financial impact on the district employing that person
33 or on the rate at which that person may be compensated. The commission may establish
34 procedures to ensure that no such person shall participate in commission deliberations that may
35 directly affect the school districts employing those persons or that may directly affect the rate at
36 which those persons are compensated.

37 The commission shall file its report, together with drafts of any recommended legislation,
38 with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the senate and house chairs of the joint
39 committee on education and the chairs of the senate and house committees on ways and means
40 not later than July 31, 2018.