

SENATE No. 224

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia Stone Creem

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act supporting the local determination of educational competency and multiple forms of academic assessment.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Cynthia Stone Creem

First Middlesex and Norfolk

Elizabeth A. Malia

11th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00309 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT SUPPORTING THE LOCAL DETERMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL COMPETENCY AND MULTIPLE FORMS OF ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT.

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 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the text contained in lines 51 through 72 in its
3 entirety, and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4 (i) The 'competency determination' shall be based on the academic standards and curriculum
5 frameworks for tenth graders in the areas of mathematics and English, and shall represent a
6 determination that a particular student has demonstrated proficiency in a common core of skills,
7 competencies and knowledge in these areas, as measured by a variety of assessment
8 instruments. Said assessment instruments shall be determined by the local public school district
9 after review and comment by the department. However, under no circumstances may the results
10 of a single means of assessment or test be used as a condition of high school graduation.

11 SECTION 2. Section 1I of said chapter 69 is hereby amended by striking, in lines 20
12 and 21, the following words:- “As much as is practicable, especially” and said section is further
13 amended by adding in line 24 after the words “student performance.” the following new
14 sentence:- “Students whose performance may be difficult to assess shall include, but not be
15 limited to, student with special needs, students enrolled in a vocational education program and
16 students with limited English proficiency.”