

**SENATE . . . . . No. 257**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Cynthia S. 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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Cynthia S. Creem*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Middlesex and Norfolk*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 257**

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By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 257) of Cynthia S. Creem for legislation to support the local determination of educational competency and multiple forms of academic assessment. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 219 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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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 2012  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the text contained in lines 54 through 75 in its  
3 entirety, and inserting in place thereof the following:-

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

10 may the results of a single means of assessment or test be used as a condition of high school  
11 graduation.

12           SECTION 2. Section 1I of said chapter 69 is hereby amended by striking, in lines 20 and  
13 21, the following words:- "As much as is practicable, especially"; and said section is further  
14 amended by adding in line 25 after the words "student performance." the following new  
15 sentence:- "Students whose performance may be difficult to assess shall include, but not be  
16 limited to, students with special needs, students enrolled in a vocational education program and  
17 students with limited English proficiency."