

SENATE No. 361

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 establishing a Special Commission to Re-Imagine School Assessment and Accountability.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jason M. Lewis

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Fifth Middlesex

SENATE No. 361

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 361) of Jason M. Lewis for legislation to establish a Special Commission to Re-Imagine School Assessment and Accountability. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a Special Commission to Re-Imagine School Assessment and Accountability.

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. (a) There shall be a special commission on the student, school and district
2 evaluation system, assessment instruments, and requirements regarding state intervention in
3 underperforming schools and school districts. The commission shall review the
4 Commonwealth’s current assessment and accountability system, including provisions in sections
5 1D, 1I, 1J, and 1K of chapter 69 of the General Laws that affect the performance, efficacy, and
6 impact of the student, school, and district evaluation system.

7 The commission shall examine the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act of
8 2015, Public Law 114-95, as well as potential waivers; the range of alternative assessment and
9 accountability systems in place or being considered across the country; and research data on
10 what parents, K-12 educators, higher education and business leaders want students to know and
11 be able to do upon high school graduation.

12 Regarding the assessment of students, the special commission shall consider assessments
13 other than conventional methods, including, but not limited to, work samples, projects and
14 portfolios, and authentic and direct gauges of student performance.

15 Regarding the accountability formula, the special commission shall consider the inclusion
16 of a broader range of measures that align with public values and are less tied to student
17 demography.

18 Regarding accountability determinations, the commission shall consider a process of
19 public input and deliberation, rather than an algorithm or the commissioner's or Board's
20 judgment alone. The commission shall use these reviews and research data to develop
21 recommendations, including proposed amendments to sections 1D, 1I, 1J and 1K of chapter 69
22 of the General Laws, on the Commonwealth's future education assessment and accountability
23 system. The commission shall file its recommendations, together with drafts of legislation
24 necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, with the clerks of the senate and house of
25 representatives on or before December 31, 2022.

26 (b) There shall be two co-chairs, selected by commission members at their first meeting
27 from among the commission's membership. Commission members shall include the senate and
28 house chairs of the Joint Committee on Education or designees; the commissioner of elementary
29 and secondary education or designee; the secretary of education or designee; the speaker of the
30 house of representatives or designee; the president of the senate or designee; the minority leader
31 of the house of representatives or designee; the minority leader of the senate or designee; and one
32 member to be appointed by each of the following organizations: Massachusetts Association of
33 School Committees, Inc.; Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Inc.;

34 Massachusetts Teachers Association; American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts;
35 Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association; Massachusetts State Student Advisory Council;
36 Multicultural Education, Training, and Advocacy, Inc.; NAACP Boston; Citizens for Public
37 Schools; Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment; Black Educators
38 Alliance of Massachusetts; Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association; Gaston
39 Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy of the University of
40 Massachusetts Boston; Massachusetts Advocates for Children; Center for Law and Education;
41 and the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University.

42 (c) Prior to issuing its recommendations, the commission shall conduct not fewer than 8
43 public hearings across regions of the Commonwealth, and shall invite expert speakers on
44 alternative forms of state assessment and accountability systems that replace standardized
45 testing.