

HOUSE No. 395

By Mr. Brownsberger of Belmont, petition of William N. Brownsberger for legislation to expand the use of learning technology in public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO EXPAND THE USE OF LEARNING TECHNOLOGY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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 1A of Chapter 69 of the General Laws is amended by at
2 the end thereof the following additional paragraph:
3 The commissioner shall annually conduct a survey of learning
4 technology available in the marketplace. This survey shall cover
5 distance learning, computer-based learning and other forms of
6 computer-assisted and telecommunications-assisted learning
7 which either allow students to master primary and secondary
8 school subjects outside a classroom setting or help to reduce the
9 classroom time necessary to achieve mastery. The survey shall
10 include commercially available products and other available prod-
11 ucts, especially including courses developed by public institutions
12 of higher education in the commonwealth. The commissioner
13 shall annually publish to all school districts an inventory of com-
14 mercially products which are of high quality and relevance.
15 School districts shall not be prohibited from using products which
16 are not included in the inventory. The commissioner, with the
17 approval of the board, shall, in the first month of each calendar
18 year, submit to the General Court recommendations for measures
19 which would cost-effectively encourage the more rapid dissemina-
20 tion of learning technology in the public schools, to include
21 without limitation (i) programs for professional development for
22 teachers to develop skills for coaching and mentoring students

23 who are learning outside the classrooms; and (ii) programs to
24 compensate public school teachers and teachers in public institu-
25 tions of higher education in the state for development of learning
26 technology which will further state curriculum goals.