

HOUSE No. 396

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, petition of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others relative to the graduation requirements of school systems. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Antonio F. D. Cabral
Matthew C. Patrick

Robert L. Rice, Jr.

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

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. The Governor shall appoint a special commission to
2 analyze graduation requirements for all public school students in the
3 Commonwealth, which shall be composed of one individual nomi-
4 nated by the Massachusetts Department of Education, the Chair-
5 person of the Massachusetts Board of Education or his nominee, one
6 individual nominated by the Massachusetts Association of School
7 Committees, one individual nominated by the Massachusetts Sec-
8 ondary Schools Administrators' Association, Inc., one individual
9 nominated by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, one individual nomi-
10 nated by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, one individual
11 nominated by the Massachusetts Federation of Teachers, one parent
12 of a child attending a public school in Massachusetts to be nomi-
13 nated by the remaining members of the Board and one child
14 attending a public school in Massachusetts to be nominated by the
15 remaining members of the Board. Said nominations shall be sub-
16 mitted to the office of the Governor no later than ninety days from
17 the date of the enactment hereof and shall first meet in a location to
18 be chosen by the Governor no later than sixty days thereafter. The
19 commission shall issue a report containing recommended graduation
20 requirements which shall create standards for special education,
21 vocational-technical education and regular education students and

22 which shall be comprised of students' results on the Massachusetts
23 Comprehensive Assessment System examinations, students' com-
24 munity service, students' classroom grades and such other factors as
25 the commission shall determine. Such standards shall ensure that a
26 student's failure to meet any one component requirement shall not
27 alone prevent said student from receiving a high school diploma.
28 The commission shall also issue draft legislation to implement these
29 recommendations and shall submit both the recommendations and
30 the draft legislation to the Joint Committee on Education of the
31 General Court within one hundred twenty days of the commission's
32 first meeting.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1D of Chapter 69, as appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in line 59, after the
3 word "graduation," the following:—

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements of
5 the competency determination shall not be used as a graduation
6 requirement in any school system until said system's students have
7 completed their education in said system entirely under the cur-
8 riculum frameworks established by Chapter 71 of the Acts of 1993.