

HOUSE No. 407

By Mr. Canessa of New Bedford, petition of Stephen R. Canessa and others that the Board of Education be directed to increase the maximum age for attendance of students in the schools of the Commonwealth. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Stephen R. Canessa	Jennifer L. Flanagan
John F. Quinn	Barbara A. L'Italien
Mary E. Grant	Antonio F. D. Cabral
Edward M. Augustus, Jr.	David B. Sullivan
Robert M. Koczera	Alice Hanlon Peisch
Thomas J. Calter	Mark C. Montigny

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT CONCERNING DROPOUT PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.

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 1B of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out the 20th paragraph and inserting in place thereof the
4 following:—

5 “The Board shall establish the permissible and mandatory ages
6 for school attendance; provided, that such mandatory maximum age
7 shall be the age of 18, or until graduation from high school or attain-
8 ment of equivalent thereof, whichever occurs first.

1 SECTION 2. The Department of Education shall promulgate reg-
2 ulations to expand the definition of “Structured Learning Time” to
3 include alternative learning opportunities that currently exist or may
4 exist.

1 SECTION 3. Line item 7061-9404 appearing in Chapter 139 of
2 the Acts of 2006 is hereby amended by striking out the years “2003

3 and beyond,” and inserting in place thereof the following years:—
4 “2007 and beyond.”

1 SECTION 4. Line item 7061-9404 appearing in chapter 139 of
2 the Acts of 2006 is hereby amended by striking out in the final line,
3 the amount “\$10,332,793,” and inserting in place thereof the
4 following:— “\$20,000,000.”

1 SECTION 5. The Department of Education shall establish a stu-
2 dent dropout prevention program, in each fiscal year in which funds
3 are appropriated, to assist local and regional school districts with the
4 greatest need in decreasing the number of students dropping out of
5 school and increasing the state-wide graduation rate. Local and
6 regional school districts shall use the program to conduct needs
7 assessments, implement or expand innovative programs, or evaluate
8 existing efforts. No less than \$10,000,000 shall be expended for this
9 fund.

1 SECTION 6. The Department of Education shall conduct a study
2 on the feasibility of incorporating a student’s structured summer
3 employment into the structured learning time requirements under
4 603 CMR 27.04.

1 SECTION 7. The Department of Education shall conduct a study
2 on the establishment of a permanent cooperative learning program
3 that would fulfill a student’s graduation requirements under 603
4 CMR 27.04.