

HOUSE No. 473

By Mr. Kafka of Stoughton, petition of Louis L. Kafka and others that the Department of Education be directed to establish a commission to make an investigation and study of ergonomic design standards for schools in the Commonwealth. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Louis L. Kafka
William C. Galvin

Martha M. Walz

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY ERGONOMICS IN THE 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 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to
2 the contrary, the Department of Education shall create a commission
3 to study ergonomics with the K-12 school environment and its
4 impact on the health of its students.
- 5 1.) The commission shall consist of 11 members, 4 of whom shall
6 be appointed by the Commissioner of Education, 4 appointed by the
7 Commissioner of Public Health, 2 appointed by the Treasurer who
8 shall be members of the Massachusetts School Building Authority or
9 Advisory Board and 1 appointed by the Governor.
- 10 2.) The commission shall examine ergonomic issues, including:—
11 A.) The types, prevalence and level of severity of injuries associ-
12 ated with non-ergonomic study environments and study practices,
13 including textbook weight;
14 B.) The development of ergonomic design standards for current
15 and future school facilities including but not limited to classroom
16 design, study equipment, lighting, computers and furniture.
- 17 3.) The commission may meet and hold hearings at the place or
18 places it designated during the sessions or recesses of the Legisla-

19 ture. The commission shall issue a final report to the Governor and
20 Legislature no later than six months following its organizational
21 meeting on the need, viability and cost of recommended changes in
22 the educational environment.

23 4.) This act shall take effect immediately.