

HOUSE No. 477

By Mr. Kaufman of Lexington, petition of Jay R. Kaufman and others to encourage excellence and accountability in the Commonwealth's public education system. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Jay R. Kaufman	J. James Marzilli, Jr.
David Paul Linsky	Susan C. Fargo
John D. Keenan	Mary E. Grant
Gale D. Candaras	Denise Provost
Matthew C. Patrick	Kay Khan
Pamela P. Resor	Steven J. D'Amico

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE COMMONWEALTH'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.

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 2 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting, in line 2, after the word "governor," the following word:—
4 education,

1 SECTION 2. Said Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as so
2 appearing, is hereby amended by inserting, after Section 8A, the
3 following section: —

4 Section 13A. Executive Office for Education.
5 In order that all citizens of the Commonwealth, regardless of their
6 individual circumstances, shall have an equal opportunity to pursue
7 the promise of the education necessary to be informed and engaged
8 citizens; that all future voters and taxpayers shall have the training
9 required of them as consumers, employees and employers in the
10 global marketplace; that all of tomorrow's citizens and taxpayers
11 shall have an equal opportunity to pursue happiness and economic

12 security for themselves, their families and their communities; and
13 that there shall be clear authority, responsibility, and accountability
14 for the education of the citizenry of the Commonwealth, there shall
15 be established the Executive Office for Education.

16 The office shall include the department of education, the depart-
17 ment of early education and care, the board of education, the board
18 of higher education, the board of early education and care, the
19 Massachusetts school building authority, the university of Massachu-
20 setts building authority, the state college building authority, the
21 Massachusetts educational finance authority, the office of educa-
22 tional quality and accountability, and the boards of trustees of all
23 state colleges and universities.

24 The governor shall appoint a secretary, who shall serve as the
25 chair of each of the boards. The governor shall, with the advice of
26 the secretary, appoint all members of the boards within the executive
27 office.

1 SECTION 3. Section 1E of Chapter 15 of the General Laws as
2 appearing in the 2000 official edition, is amended by striking lines 1
3 through 24, and line 25 through the sentence ending “shall not be
4 counted as a full term” and replacing them with the following: —

5 There shall be a board of public education which shall consist of
6 fifteen members with demonstrated expertise in and commitment to
7 a vital and vibrant public education system and reflecting and repre-
8 sentative of the population of students in the Commonwealth’s
9 public schools. The board will be ethnically, racially, economically
10 and politically diverse and represent the several geographic regions
11 of the Commonwealth and the different perspectives and needs of
12 urban, rural and suburban school districts. It will include representa-
13 tion from students, teachers, principals, and superintendents as well
14 as representative local officials, business leaders, higher education
15 administrators, and educational policy experts. In making appoint-
16 ments to the board, the governor shall appoint the chancellor of
17 higher education, two representatives of business or industry, one
18 member chosen from a list of three names provided by each of the
19 following:— the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the Massa-
20 chusetts Federation of Teachers, the Massachusetts Association of
21 School Committees, the Massachusetts Association of School Super-
22 intendents, the Massachusetts Association of Secondary School

23 Administrators, the Massachusetts Association of Elementary
24 School Administrators, the Massachusetts Municipal Association,
25 and the student advisory council established under this section; and
26 four additional members selected by the governor. One third of the
27 members appointed upon passage of this section shall serve an initial
28 term of three years; one third shall serve an initial term of four years;
28 and one third shall serve an initial term of five years. Thereafter,
30 members shall serve for a period of three years. No person shall be
31 appointed to serve more than two full terms, provided, however, that
32 service on or before passage of this section shall not be counted for
33 this purpose.

1 SECTION 4. Section 1G of said Chapter 15 shall be amended by
2 inserting in line 2 after “the following areas,” the words: — civics;
3 lifelong learning;

1 SECTION 5. Section 1G of said Chapter 15 shall be amended by
2 inserting after line 25, the words: —

3 The advisory council on civics shall include current and retired
4 community leaders as business and academic leaders with demon-
5 strated experience of and commitment to civic engagement and com-
6 munity empowerment. The council shall advise the board on
7 programs and initiatives to promote an understanding and apprecia-
8 tion of our democratic institutions and traditions, and to promote
9 school-based programs to encourage an informed an engaged citi-
10 zenry.

11 The advisory council on lifelong learning shall include higher
12 education, business and community leaders with demonstrated
13 scholarship or creativity in, or distinguished experience of and
14 service to, lifelong learning. The council shall advise the board on
15 the development and implementation of school and community-
16 based programs and initiatives to encourage and empower students
17 to continue learning as adults and to sponsor opportunities for life-
18 long learning.