

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 513**

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, petition of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others relative to high school graduation requirements for students with learning disabilities. Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PETITION OF:

Alice Hanlon Peisch	David Paul Linsky
Barbara A. L'Italien	Cory Atkins
Mary E. Grant	Karen E. Spilka
John D. Keenan	Kathi-Anne Reinstein
Michael F. Rush	Walter F. Timilty
Tom Sannicandro	Denise Provost
John W. Scibak	Jennifer M. Callahan
William N. Brownsberger	
Thomas P. Kennedy	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATING TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES.

*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. Subsection (i) of Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the  
2 General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby  
3 amended by inserting after "high school graduation" the following:  
4 except as described in subsection (ia) below.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
3 inserting after subsection (i) the following:—

4 (ia) Any "School Age Child with a Disability," as defined by G.  
5 L. c. 71B s. 1, who fails to satisfy the requirements of the compe-  
6 tency determination may nonetheless receive a high school diploma  
7 if the following requirements are met:—

8 1.) S/he has been measured by the assessment instruments  
9 described in Section one I a minimum of two times and has failed to  
10 achieve the required competency level in one or more subjects;

11 2.) The Superintendent of Schools in the student's district has cer-  
12 tified that the student's "Specific Learning Impairment", as defined  
13 by G.L. c. 71B s.1, is the proximate cause of his/her failure to  
14 achieve the required competency level(s) and that there is no gener-  
15 ally accepted remediation for such disability that would result in the  
16 student's achieving the required competency level(s);

17 3.) The student has participated in and satisfactorily completed an  
18 Educational Proficiency Plan, as defined by the Department of Edu-  
19 cation, in all subjects in which s/he has failed to achieve the required  
20 competency level;

21 4.) The student has met all other requirements for graduation,  
22 both district and state, and has completed the goals of the his/her  
23 Individual Education Plan to his/her and his/her parent(s) satisfac-  
24 tion.

25 Any diploma awarded pursuant to this section shall be known as a  
26 "standard" diploma but shall be considered evidence of high school  
27 graduation for purposes of post-secondary school admission, eligi-  
28 bility for state and federal post-secondary financial aid, and eligi-  
29 bility for employment. Any diploma awarded pursuant to this  
30 section shall not, in and of itself, terminate a student's eligibility for  
31 special education service before the student reaches the age of  
32 twenty-two.