

SENATE NO. 304

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

*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 appearing in the 2004 official edition,
2 is hereby amended by striking out the 20th paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following:-
3 “The board shall establish the permissible and mandatory ages of school attendance; provided, that
4 such mandatory and maximum age shall be the age of 18, or until graduation from high school or
5 attainment of equivalent thereof, whichever shall occur first.”

6 SECTION 2. Section 1 of Chapter 76 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 official edition, is
7 hereby amended by striking out, in line 1, after the word “the” everything until the word “shall” in line
8 13 and inserting in place thereof the following words: - “ages of 6 and 18.”

9 SECTION 3. There shall be a Commission established for the purpose of investigating and reporting
10 on current efforts to reduce student drop out rates in the Commonwealth, and to recommend additional
11 programs or policies to reduce the drop out rate in the Commonwealth. The Commission shall explore
12 plans, programs, initiatives, curricula, policies, including those in other states, or any other source of
13 information, which is relevant to reducing student drop out rates in the Commonwealth. The
14 Commission will hold a minimum of four public hearings in diverse locations which will accurately
15 represent the scope and complexity of the school drop out problem, and will take testimony from the
16 public.

17 The Commission shall consist of 15 members consisting of: The House and Senate Chairs of
18 the Joint Committee on Education, or their designee; the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint

19 Committee on Children and Families, or their designee; the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
20 or his designee; the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, or his designee; the President of
21 the Senate, or his designee; the Senate Minority Leader, or his designee; three persons appointed by
22 the Governor, one of whom shall be chosen from a list of two persons nominated by the Massachusetts
23 Association of School Superintendents and two persons nominated by the Massachusetts Association
24 of School Committees; the Commissioner of Education, or his designee; the Chief Justice of the
25 Juvenile Court, or her designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, or his
26 designee; and one member appointed by the Legislative Children's Caucus. There shall be House and
27 Senate co-chairs appointed by the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate respectively.