

SENATE NO. 358

AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON COMMONWEALTH CHARTER 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 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any General Law to the contrary the Board of Education shall not
2 grant a commonwealth charter to any applicant for a period of three years, retroactive to January
3 1, 2007. Further, the Board of Education shall not authorize additional enrollment beyond the
4 enrollment specified in the charter of any previously approved commonwealth charter school
5 for a period of three years, as of January 1, 2007.

6 SECTION 2. The legislature shall establish a 13 member special commission to study the
7 commonwealth charter school funding formula and funding sources. The commission shall also
8 evaluate the budgetary impact on local school districts and the feasibility of designating
9 commonwealth charter school tuition as a separate line item in the state budget. The
10 commission may also review the academic performance of commonwealth charter schools, the
11 demographics of charter school enrollment, and the adequacy of the Department of Education's

12 oversight of commonwealth charter schools.

13 Said commission shall consist of six legislators including the House and Senate chairs of the

14 Joint Committee on Education, Arts and Humanities, and two members appointed by the

15 President of the Senate and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House, including one

16 member in each chamber from the minority party; two members appointed by the governor and

17 one representative each from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, the

18 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Massachusetts Charter School

19 Association, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, and the Massachusetts Federation of

20 Teachers.

21 The special commission shall submit its report and recommendations, if any, to the legislature

22 by December 1, 2008.