

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer Benson

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to a special education services for low incidence populations.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Jennifer Benson	37th Middlesex
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
William N. Brownsberger	24th Middlesex
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	34th Middlesex
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Kate Hogan	3rd Middlesex
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex
Jennifer L. Flanagan	Worcester and Middlesex
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO A SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR LOW INCIDENCE POPULATIONS.

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 any general or special law to the contrary, the department of elementary and
2 secondary education shall make an investigation and a study, subject to appropriation, to determine
3 whether there are sufficient and appropriate services for low incidence students with disabilities and to
4 identify opportunities for administrative efficiencies and cost savings by school districts.

5 There shall be an advisory group chaired by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or
6 his designee, which shall assist the department in conducting the investigation and study. Members of the
7 advisory group shall include the commissioner of the department of public health or designee, the
8 commissioner of the department of mental retardation or designee, the commissioner of the department of
9 mental health or designee, a representative of the commission for the blind, a representative of the
10 commission for the deaf and hard of hearing; and one person selected by each of the following
11 organizations: the Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education, the Urban Superintendents
12 Group, the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives, the Massachusetts Association of
13 766 Approved Private Schools, the Massachusetts Advocates for Children, the Federation for Children
14 with Special Needs, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, the Massachusetts Head Injury
15 Foundation. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education may appoint such other members
16 as he deems necessary to assist the department in carrying out the investigation and study. The advisory
17 group shall advise and assist the department by reviewing available data concerning low incidence
18 students with disabilities; considering current special education program and service delivery structures
19 and placements for low incidence students and their costs; examining programs and services provided by
20 non-educational agencies that support students with disabilities; identifying needs and challenges in
21 transitions from early intervention through post-secondary and adult service systems as well as student
22 relocations from one district to another; identifying best practices for providing high quality and cost-
23 effective services to low incidence students with disabilities; and determining the challenges and
24 opportunities for ensuring coherent, appropriate and cost effective services for students across multiple
25 agencies as they progress from early intervention services to pre-K-12 education and to postsecondary

26 education and adult services, including, but not limited to examining the opportunity for funding to follow
27 a child through the system.

28 The department shall file a report on the results of its investigation and study, and any recommendations
29 relative thereto, with the joint committee on education no later than November 20, 2009.