

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

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
6 or his designee, which shall assist the department in conducting the investigation and study. Members
7 of the advisory group shall include the commissioner of the department of public health or designee,
8 the commissioner of the department of mental retardation or designee, the commissioner of the
9 department of mental health or designee, a representative of the commission for the blind, a
10 representative of the commission for the deaf and hard of hearing; and one person selected by each of
11 the following organizations: the Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education, the Urban
12 Superintendents Group, the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives, the
13 Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools, the Massachusetts Advocates for Children,
14 the Federation for Children with Special Needs, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, the
15 Massachusetts Head Injury Foundation. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education may
16 appoint such other members as he deems necessary to assist the department in carrying out the
17 investigation and study. The advisory group shall advise and assist the department by reviewing
18 available data concerning low incidence students with disabilities; considering current special education
19 program and service delivery structures and placements for low incidence students and their costs;
20 examining programs and services provided by non-educational agencies that support students with
21 disabilities; identifying needs and challenges in transitions from early intervention through post-

22 secondary and adult service systems as well as student relocations from one district to another;
23 identifying best practices for providing high quality and cost-effective services to low incidence students
24 with disabilities; and determining the challenges and opportunities for ensuring coherent, appropriate
25 and cost effective services for students across multiple agencies as they progress from early intervention
26 services to pre-K-12 education and to postsecondary education and adult services, including, but not
27 limited to examining the opportunity for funding to follow a child through the system.

28 The department shall file a report on the results of its investigation and study, and any
29 recommendations relative thereto, with the joint committee on education no later than November 20,
30 2009.