

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Patricia A. Haddad**

*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 Establishing a Charter School Working Group.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Patricia A. Haddad

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

5th Bristol

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHARTER SCHOOL WORKING GROUP.

*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. There is hereby established a charter school working group to study the financing of, caps  
2 imposed upon, and innovations promoted by charter schools authorized under the provisions of chapter  
3 71, section 89. The working group shall also study the obstacles which have limited the broader  
4 utilization of the Horace Mann model of charter schools. The working group shall report its findings and  
5 conclusions to the general court and make recommendations regarding any necessary legislative and  
6 regulatory changes which are suggested by those findings and conclusions. The first meeting of the  
7 working group shall take place within 30 days after the effective date of this act.

8 SECTION 2. The working group shall consist of: the speaker of the house of representatives, or his  
9 designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the president of the senate, or her designee, who shall serve as  
10 co-chair; the minority leaders of the house and senate, or their designees,; the house and senate chairs  
11 of the joint committee on education; the chairs of the house and senate committee on ways and means;  
12 the secretary of administration and finance, or her designee; the secretary of education, or his designee;  
13 the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or his designee; and 2 appointees of the  
14 governor.

15 SECTION 3. In carrying out its charge, the working group shall examine, report on, and make  
16 recommendations regarding, the following matters:

- 17 a) the appropriateness of the financing and reimbursement provisions of chapter 71, section  
18 89(nn) and section 89(pp) as a mechanism for the financing of charter schools;
- 19 b) the extent to which the reimbursement provisions of chapter 71, section 89(pp) are effective at  
20 minimizing the adverse financial impact of charter schools on sending school districts while  
21 providing sufficient resources for the successful operation of charter schools.
- 22 c) the appropriateness of the caps and limits imposed in section 89(i) on the number of,  
23 enrollments in, percentage of net school spending directed to, and location of charter schools;
- 24 d) the extent to, and means by, which the dissemination of successful innovation programs called  
25 for in section 89(s) has occurred;
- 26 e) the obstacles to broader utilization of Horace Mann charters as a vehicle to achieve the  
27 objectives articulated in section 89(d);

28 SECTION 4. The working group shall solicit advice from such persons and entities as it deems necessary,  
29 including the department of education, associations representing superintendents, other educational  
30 administrators, teachers, school business officers, municipal officials and charter schools.

31 SECTION 5. The working group shall file a report containing its recommendations, including legislation  
32 and regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the joint committee on education and  
33 the clerks of the house and senate not later than 6 months following the first meeting of the working  
34 group.