

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 School Counseling Leadership Pilot Project to Accelerate College and Career Readiness in Massachusetts Public Schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

14th Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL COUNSELING LEADERSHIP PILOT PROJECT TO ACCELERATE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS IN MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC 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 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Department of Higher Education (DHE),
2 in partnership with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), shall create a two-
3 year Pilot Project to accelerate college and career readiness, utilizing the new college and career web
4 portal at the school district level through a redistribution of school counselor time allowing them to fully
5 integrate college and career planning throughout the district and community. This Pilot Project will be
6 rigorously evaluated with the goal of producing evidence-based standards for highly effective college
7 and career readiness school counseling programs statewide.

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9 The project will be housed at DHE and DHE will partner closely with DESE on the project's structure and
10 oversight.

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12 Through a competitive application process managed by the Department of Higher DHE in partnership
13 with the DESE, ten school districts will be selected to participate.

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15 DHE, in partnership with DESE, shall, 60 days after receiving it's appropriation, convene a volunteer
16 committee to review and make recommendations on Pilot Project criteria for the purposes of an RFP.
17 To assure a diverse mix of schools against which to measure impact, selection criteria for Pilot Project
18 districts will be determined by a volunteer committee process managed by DESE and DHE and will

19 include one representative each from the Readiness Project, Leaders for Education coalition, vocational
20 secondary schools, MASCA, The College Board, MEFA, the Massachusetts Principal's Association, the
21 Massachusetts Superintendent's Association, Massachusetts PTA, Massachusetts Business Alliance for
22 Education, Massachusetts Life Science Center, the Massachusetts High Technology Council, and the
23 National Center for School Counseling Outcome Research. The partnership will also oversee the
24 development of an evaluation plan to monitor ongoing activities and generate outcome data to produce
25 evidenced based standards for highly effective college and career readiness school counseling programs

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27 Following upon that timeline, Pilot Project RFPs will be distributed within 30-days with a 60 day
28 turnaround limit.

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30 Selection and notification of Pilot Project school districts will take place within 30 days of RFP deadline.

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32 The project will run for a two-year period with an interim 12-month report and a final 24-month report
33 to be provided to the legislature and the Administration by DHE in partnership with DESE.

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35 Subject to appropriation, participating school districts will be awarded \$20,000/year to participate in the
36 Pilot Project. All funds shall be used to supplement, not supplant, existing funding. DHE shall be
37 granted \$100,000/year to manage the Pilot Project and to hire and manage a technical assistance team
38 to support participating districts. The evaluation component will require \$100,000. The two year pilot
39 will cost \$700,000. The project will be highly structured with clear benchmarks and deliverables with
40 the ultimate goal being the establishment of evidence-based standards of school counseling that can be
41 replicated throughout the Commonwealth to ensure the highest possible rates of student success and
42 college and career readiness.

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45 **Expectations of participating school districts:**

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- 47 ▪ School counselors will collaborate with district's academic leadership to integrate college and
48 career readiness into both the curriculum and academic mission of the school to keep pace with
49 21st century skill and knowledge needs;
- 50 ▪ School counselors will develop expertise with the state's new College and Career Web Portal
51 (*expected Spring 2009 launch*) and will promote the Portal broadly within the school and
52 community, and will include parent outreach as a component of adoption of the Portal as a tool;

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54 ▪ All school counselors will receive professional development in current trends in college and
55 career planning;
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57 ▪ School counselors will actively use school data to advise course enrollment and scheduling and
58 support student achievement;
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60 ▪ As a team, school counselors and their principals will attend a two-day summer leadership
61 institute with each district sending school counselors and principals to train and plan as a team;
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63 ▪ School counselors will lead off-campus outreach activities at the community level with parents
64 and students as early as eighth grade to promote college and career planning and aspirational
65 academic goal-setting as well as financial planning;
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67 ▪ Development of a plan and time-line to implement the Educational Proficiency Plans (EPP) to
68 begin in grade 8 rather than grade 10 so that students may have adequate time to close
69 identified achievement gaps. School counselors will work closely with students and faculty to
70 adapt course selection and student schedules to assure proficiency in grades 9-12;

71 ▪ School counselors will have a formal role in the development and implementation of school
72 policies which impact college and career readiness for all students
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74 ▪ Sites will collaborate fully with formative and summative evaluation processes
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76 ▪ Adherence to uniform tracking and reporting guidelines for Pilot Project as defined by DHE in
77 partnership with DESE.
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