

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

**Alice Hanlon Peisch**

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*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 relating to high school graduation requirements for students with learning disabilities.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Alice Hanlon Peisch	14th Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 513 OF.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**AN ACT RELATING TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS  
WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES.**

*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. Subsection (i) of Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after “high school graduation” the following:

3  
4 , except as described in subsection (ia) below

5  
6 SECTION 2. Said section 1D is hereby further amended by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

7  
8 (ia) Any “School Age Child with a Disability,” as defined by G. L. c. 71B s. 1, who fails to satisfy the  
9 requirements of the competency determination may nonetheless receive a high school diploma if the following  
10 requirements are met:

- 11
- 12 1. S/he has been measured by the assessment instruments described in section one I a minimum of two times  
13 and has failed to achieve the required competency level in one or more subjects;
  - 14 2. The Superintendent of Schools in the student’s district has certified that the student’s “Specific Learning  
15 Impairment”, as defined by G.L. c. 71B s.1, is the proximate cause of his/her failure to achieve the required  
16 competency level(s) and that there is no generally accepted remediation for such disability that would result  
17 in the student’s achieving the required competency level(s);
  - 18 3. The student has participated in and satisfactorily completed an Educational Proficiency Plan, as defined by  
19 the Department of Education, in all subjects in which s/he has failed to achieve the required competency  
20 level;
  - 21 4. The student has met all other requirements for graduation, both district and state, and has completed the  
22 goals of the his/her Individual Education Plan to his/her and his/her parent(s) satisfaction.

23  
24 Any diploma awarded pursuant to this section shall be known as a “standard” diploma but shall be considered  
25 evidence of high school graduation for purposes of post-secondary school admission, eligibility for state and federal  
26 post-secondary financial aid, and eligibility for employment. Any diploma awarded pursuant to this section shall

27 not, in and of itself, terminate a student's eligibility for special education service before the student reaches the age  
28 of twenty-two.  
29