

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia Stone Creem

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 supporting the local determination of educational competency and multiple forms of academic assessment.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cynthia Stone Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex and Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00309 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT SUPPORTING THE LOCAL DETERMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL COMPETENCY AND MULTIPLE FORMS OF ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT.

*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. Section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by striking the text contained in lines 51 through 72 in its entirety,
3 and inserting in place thereof the following:-
- 4 (i) The 'competency determination' shall be based on the academic standards and curriculum
5 frameworks for tenth graders in the areas of mathematics and English, and shall represent a
6 determination that a particular student has demonstrated proficiency in a common core of skills,
7 competencies and knowledge in these areas, as measured by a variety of assessment instruments.
8 Said assessment instruments shall be determined by the local public school district after review
9 and comment by the department. However, under no circumstances may the results of a single
10 means of assessment or test be used as a condition of high school graduation.

11 SECTION 2. Section 1I of said chapter 69 is hereby amended by striking, in lines 20 and 21,
12 the following words:- “As much as is practicable, especially” and said section is further
13 amended by adding in line 24 after the words “student performance.” the following new
14 sentence:- “Students whose performance may be difficult to assess shall include, but not be
15 limited to, student with special needs, students enrolled in a vocational education program and
16 students with limited English proficiency.”