

By Mr. Brennan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 197) of John A. Brennan, Jr., for legislation relative to requirements for graduation from the public school system by the Board of Education. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-eight.

AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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 1G of Chapter 15 of the General Laws as most re-
2 cently amended by Chapter 613 of the Acts of 1974 is hereby
3 further amended by inserting after paragraph 15 the following
4 four paragraphs:

5 The Board shall prepare minimum competency tests in the
6 areas of reading, writing, and computation. These tests will
7 be administered by the school systems twice during each
8 school year beginning with the second grade. The level of
9 achievement will advance with grade level advancement from
10 the second through eighth grade.

11 From levels ninth through 12th grade a minimum level of
12 achievement will be set by the department. The level shall be
13 a standard that is the same for each grade. Passing the mini-
14 mum levels in each of the three areas will be mandatory for
15 receipt of a high school diploma upon graduation. Once the
16 tests have been passed by a student, that student shall not be
17 required to take the tests again.

18 Failure of any one of the tests but completion of other
19 high school graduation requirements will result in a certificate
20 of attendance in lieu of a diploma.

21 Any student who does not satisfactorily fulfill the require-
22 ments of a minimum competency test imposed under the pro-
23 visions of this section shall be provided with remedial services
24 during the school day in the subject area in which the test

25 indicates deficiencies. Parents of students not satisfactorily
26 fulfilling the requirements of a minimum competency test
27 shall be notified in writing by the school system a minimum
28 of once each semester.