

By Ms. St. Fleur of Boston, petition of Marie P. St. Fleur and others for legislation to increase to eighteen years the mandatory age for students attending schools in the Commonwealth. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Marie P. St. Fleur
Barbara A. L'Italien
Matthew C. Patrick
John F. Quinn
Stephen R. Canessa
John P. Fresolo
Denise Provost
Benjamin Swan
Gloria L. Fox
Willie Mae Allen
William Lantigua

Linda Dorcena Forry
William N. Brownsberger
William Smitty Pignatelli
Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
Elizabeth A. Malia
Richard T. Moore
Cory Atkins
Christine E. Canavan
Bruce E. Tarr
Alice Hanlon Peisch

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE MANDATORY SCHOOL AGE.

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 1B of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out the 20th paragraph, lines 99-102 inclusive, and inserting
4 in place thereof the following:—

5 The board shall establish the permissible and mandatory ages for
6 school attendance; provided, that such mandatory maximum age
7 shall be the age of 18, or until graduation from high school or attain-
8 ment of the equivalent thereof, whichever occurs first.

9 Any individual who (A) attends or last attended a public school;
10 (B) is at least sixteen (16) years of age but less than eighteen (18)
11 years of age; and (C) has not completed the requirements for gradua-
12 tion; wishes to withdraw from school before graduation, he or she

13 may withdraw from school only if all of the following conditions are
14 met;

15 (1) An exit interview is conducted.

16 (2) The individual's parent consents to the withdrawal.

17 (3) The school principal approves of the withdrawal.

18 (4) The withdrawal is due to:—

19 (A) financial hardship and the individual must be employed to
20 support the individual's family or a dependent;

21 (B) illness; or

22 (C) an order by a court that has jurisdiction over the child. During
23 the exit interview, the school principal shall provide to the student
24 and the student's parent a copy of statistics compiled by the depart-
25 ment concerning the likely consequences of life without a high
26 school diploma, including a reduction of future earning and an
27 increased likelihood of unemployment in the future.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 741 of the Acts of 1965 is hereby repealed.