

By Mrs. Harkins of Needham, petition of Lida E. Harkins and other members of the House for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to alternatives to using the property tax to fund public education. Taxation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 There is hereby established a special commission to report on  
2 alternatives to using the property tax to fund public education.  
3 Said commission shall consist of the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives or a designee, the President of the Massachusetts  
5 Senate or a designee, the Chairman of the House Committee on  
6 Ways and Means or a designee, the Chairman of the Senate Com-  
7 mittee on Ways and Means or a designee, the House and Senate  
8 Chairs of the Joint Committee on Education, Arts and Humanities,  
9 the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Taxation,  
10 the Minority Leader of the House or a designee, the Minority  
11 Leader of the Senate or a designee, the Secretary of Administra-  
12 tion and Finance, and one member appointed by the following  
13 organizations; the Department of Revenue, the Suburban Coalition,  
14 the Massachusetts Taxpayer's Foundation, Associated Indus-  
15 tries of Massachusetts, and the Taxpayer's Equity Alliance of  
16 Massachusetts. Said commission shall be chaired by the House  
17 and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Taxation. The scope  
18 of the commission's inquiry shall include, but not be limited to:  
19 reviewing the current practice of using the property tax to fund  
20 education and seeking alternative sources of funding to provide a  
21 dedicated stream of revenue. The commission shall submit its  
22 report to the House and Senate Committee on Ways and Means,  
23 the Joint Committee on Education, Arts and Humanities, and the  
24 Joint Committee on Taxation not later than December 31, 2002  
25 along with drafts of any legislation.

