

HOUSE No. 516

By Mr. Stanley of Waltham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 516) of Thomas M. Stanley and others relative to establishing a moratorium for approving applications for Commonwealth charter schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas M. Stanley

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 establishing a moratorium for commonwealth charter schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex
Pam Richardson	6th Middlesex
Matthew C. Patrick	3rd Barnstable
Cleon H. Turner	1st Barnstable
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	34th Middlesex
Thomas P. Kennedy	Second Plymouth and Bristol
Paul J. Donato	35th Middlesex
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex
Kevin J. Murphy	18th Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM FOR COMMONWEALTH CHARTER SCHOOLS.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the authority of the board of
2 education to grant commonwealth charters to an applicant pursuant to section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws
3 shall be suspended until the following matters have been considered and are the subject of a report by a special
4 commission created by this act. Among the matters for consideration and recommendation by said commission are
5 the following: that objective research is completed to study the effectiveness of innovative learning strategies of the
6 commonwealth charter schools; objective research is completed to assess student learning and achievement levels to
7 measure the progress of comparable student cohorts in charter and non charter public schools; an objective analysis
8 is completed to determine the enrollment and services provided to students with special educational needs as defined
9 by General Laws chapter 71B, or students who are not proficient in the English language pursuant to General Laws
10 chapter 71A, or students who receive free or reduced price lunch pursuant to federal law, and an objective study is
11 completed to determine whether the tuition formula F.Y. 2005 budgetary amendment was adequate to meet the
12 needs of local school districts.

13 There shall be a special study commission to review the above referenced data and to file any legislation
14 that may be necessary to implement the commission's recommendations. The first meeting of the commission shall
15 take place within 30 days after the effective date of this act. The commission shall consist of the house and senate
16 chairs of the committee on ways and means or their designees, the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
17 education, arts and humanities or their designees, and one representative selected by each of the following:
18 Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents,
19 Massachusetts Teachers Association and the American Federation of Teachers – Massachusetts.