

By Ms. Fox of Boston, petition of Gloria L. Fox and others for legislation to establish multiple assessment instruments for high school graduation requirements. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Gloria L. Fox
Benjamin Swan
William Lantigua
Ruth B. Balsler
Elizabeth A. Malia

Kay Khan
Barbara A. L'Italien
Willie Mae Allen
Alice Hanlon Peisch

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO ENSURE THE USE OF MULTIPLE ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

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. The first paragraph of Section 1D of Chapter 69 of
2 the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002, Official Edition, is
3 hereby amended by adding the following sentence:—

4 Under no circumstances shall any student be denied a high school
5 diploma based on his/her outcome in a sole assessment instrument.
6 Under no circumstances shall any student be denied promotion from
7 one grade to the next based on his outcome in a sole assessment
8 instrument, the student shall be provided an alternative manner in
9 which to demonstrate attainment of the promotional standards for
10 any such grade level.

1 SECTION 2. The third paragraph of Section 1I of said Chapter
2 69, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following two
3 sentences:—

4 The competence determination upon which high school gradua-
5 tion is conditioned under the Education Reform Act shall be under-
6 stood to include multiple and authentic assessment instruments
7 whereby a student is afforded the opportunity to demonstrate his/her

8 attainment of the Curriculum Frameworks and Learning Standards in
9 the manner in which he is best suited to demonstrate such skills. The
10 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, or any other
11 system developed for the purposes of competency determination,
12 shall not be used for the purposes of denying a high school diploma
13 unless a student has first entered the school system in Kindergarten 1
14 after the adoption of the Curriculum Frameworks. Under no circum-
15 stances shall any assessment instrument, such as the MCAS, used
16 for the purposes of competency determination, be used as a criterion
17 for high school graduation until such time as no disparate impact
18 exists between the outcomes of white and minority students. Under
19 no circumstances shall any assessment instrument, such as the
20 MCAS, be used for the purposes of competency.