

SENATE No. 268

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sal N. DiDomenico

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act for universal early education and full-day kindergarten.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth J. Donnelly</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>James T. Welch</i>	<i>Hampden</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Anthony W. Petruccelli</i>	<i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Cynthia S. Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>

SENATE No. 268

By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 268) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Denise Provost, Jason M. Lewis, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to universal early education and full-day kindergarten. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act for universal early education and full-day kindergarten.

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 13 of Chapter 15D of the general laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official edition, is hereby amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting in place
3 thereof the following: -

4 Section 13. (a) The board shall, subject to appropriation, establish the Massachusetts
5 universal pre-kindergarten program to assist in providing voluntary, universally accessible, high-
6 quality early education and care programs and services for preschool-aged children in the
7 commonwealth. Provided, however, that the board shall establish a universal program for all
8 three and four year olds in the Commonwealth which shall be available free to all residents,
9 available for up to ten hours daily, up to five days a week, and throughout the year; and,
10 provided further, that the board shall determine a schedule for the universal program for three
11 and four year olds to be fully established and fully funded no later than September first, 2020;

12 and, provided further, that the board shall begin the program in districts where at least fifty
13 percent of the students are classified as low-come.

14 The program shall be designed to meet and enhance the preschool-aged child’s ability to
15 make age appropriate progress in the development of cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional and
16 physical capacities and school readiness based on curriculum frameworks, after consultation with
17 representatives of early childhood educators and their professional associations, including the
18 Massachusetts Teachers Association, the American Federation of Teachers-Massachusetts and
19 the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

20 (b) The Massachusetts universal pre-kindergarten program shall be delivered through a
21 mixed system of providers and programs.

22 The board shall ensure that, by 2020, all teachers in the programs established under this
23 section shall be licensed; provided, further, that the board shall establish a grant program to
24 provide funding for teachers to pay for courses and other costs associated with obtaining a
25 license under this section.

26 Programs shall be sufficiently flexible to serve families with various work schedules. The
27 department shall develop a method for funding the program, which may provide grants, or enter
28 into contracts with any provider of early education and care, or entities coordinating or
29 administering plans to provide high-quality, comprehensive services to children and their
30 families within the local community. These providers may include, but are not limited to: public;
31 private; non-profit preschools; child care centers; nursery schools; preschools operating within
32 public and private schools; Head Start programs; independent and system-affiliated family child
33 care homes; and local early education and care councils; provided, however, that for profit

34 preschools or other for profit entities will not be eligible as authorized providers under this
35 section The department may provide vouchers to eligible households for the purpose of
36 implementing the early education and care program. All providers shall demonstrate that they are
37 willing and able to serve and integrate children of diverse abilities and special needs, diverse
38 cultural and linguistic backgrounds and diverse economic circumstances.

39 SECTION 2. Section 1B of chapter 69 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2012
40 official edition, is hereby amended by striking the words contained in paragraph 20, and inserting
41 in place thereof the following:-

42 The board shall establish the permissible and mandatory ages for school attendance
43 provided that each child be required to attend a full-day educational program at the beginning of
44 the school year in the calendar year in which he or she attains the age of five.