

HOUSE No. 507

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chris Walsh

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 relative to financial literacy in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Leah Cole</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 507

By Mr. Walsh of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 507) of Chris Walsh and others for legislation to establish a curriculum on personal financial literacy in the public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to financial literacy in 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. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 1O the following section:-

3 Section 1P. To equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to become self-
4 supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding personal finances, the
5 department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize and assist in the
6 implementation of standards and objectives on personal financial literacy. The components of
7 personal financial literacy covered in the standards and objectives shall include: understanding
8 loans; borrowing money; interest; credit card debt; online commerce; rights and responsibilities
9 of renting or buying a home; saving, investing and planning for retirement; banking and financial
10 services; balancing a checkbook; state and federal taxes; and charitable giving.

11 The department shall develop standards and objectives on personal financial literacy, for
12 grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive, within the existing mathematics, social sciences,

13 technology, business, or other curricula where teachers have the capacity to teach financial
14 literacy for implementation by the start of the 2016-2017 school year. The department shall make
15 available to school districts, charter schools, approved private day or residential schools, and
16 collaborative schools a list of resources to aid in the selection of materials and curriculum on
17 personal financial literacy. The department shall identify and offer information on cost effective
18 methods for fulfilling the professional development activities needed to implement said
19 standards and objectives. The department may consult with private, nonprofit, or other
20 government institutions in order to identify and offer said information. The department may
21 apply for any federal, state, or other funding, including funding available through the Financial
22 Literacy Trust Fund, as established by chapter 10, as amended by chapter 14 of the acts of 2011.

23 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the advisory
24 committee established under section 200(b) of chapter 139 of the acts of 2012 shall also conduct
25 a study on additional current programs on financial literacy being offered in the Commonwealth
26 for grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive, and the cost, to individual schools and school
27 districts, of offering said programs. The advisory committee shall submit the results of this study
28 to the clerks of the senate and the house who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint
29 committee on education on or before August 31, 2016.

30 In consultation with the department, the advisory committee shall also advise and oversee
31 the development and implementation of standards and objectives on personal financial literacy.
32 After the submission of the report regarding all financial literacy programs in the
33 commonwealth, the advisory committee shall submit a report on best practices and
34 recommended improvements annually thereafter for 3 subsequent years to the clerks of the
35 senate and the house who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint committee on

36 education on or before December 31. The advisory committee shall consult with individuals with
37 relevant experiences including representatives from insurance and investment firms, real estate
38 firms, and bankruptcy attorneys.