

MASC Files Legislation Based on Delegate Assembly Actions

Based on actions taken by the delegates at the 2012 MASC Delegate Assembly last November 9, MASC General Counsel Stephen Finnegan has filed legislation that will address the special education circuit breaker formula; a special commission to study mandated reports for school districts; health insurance coverage for treatment in school; education evaluation system funding; adequacy study; and governance boards for charter schools. In addition MASC will also be refiling legislation relative to charter school funding; school improvement plans; and MCAS scores and 766 schools. Reported below are brief rationales of the proposed legislation, the bill number and legislative sponsors.

Establishment of a Special Commission of the Legislature for Mandated Reports and Data Submission for School Districts (H.512)

Sponsoring legislators: Representatives Christopher Walsh, Conroy, Dwyer, Gregoire, Linsky, David Rogers, Roy; Senators Spilka, Tarr

Among other matters covered by this anti-mandate legislation is the requirement that before new regulations are promulgated by DESE a financial and programmatic audit must be conducted.

(resolution proposed by the Framingham School Committee)

Modification of the Special Education Circuit Breaker Formula (H.511)

Sponsoring legislators: Representatives Christopher Walsh, Conroy, Gregoire, Linsky, Pignatelli, Turner; Senator Spilka

Current law reimburses school districts through the Special Education Circuit Breaker Account for 75% of the costs after 4 times the foundation formula, and this legislation would increase the percentage to 100%.

(resolution proposed by the Framingham School Committee)

Health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Treatment in School (H.2088)

Sponsoring legislators: Representatives Smizik, Calter, Coppinger, Peisch, Lewis, Dykema, Benson; Senators Barrett, Eldridge

The purpose of this legislation is to require private health insurance to cover medically necessary expenses for special needs children. Currently, only Medicaid provides funding for certain diagnostic matters.

(resolution proposed by the Brookline School Committee)

Appointment of Governing Boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools (H.495)

Sponsoring legislators: Representatives Smizik, O'Day, Ferrante, David Rogers

This bill will require that the appointment of all members of governing boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools be subject to the review and approval of school committees where such students reside. In addition to this bill, Rep. Smizik also intends to refile the charter school legislation filed in the previous session about lo-

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MASC LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY:

School leaders and legislators moving forward on issues to promote student achievement

Legislators have a lot to know. It's up to school leaders to help them understand school issues.

This year, more than ever as the FY2014 budget season reaches full throttle, legislators are facing numerous budgetary challenges from the governor, their constituents and a raft of social service and other advocacy groups. From school budgets to probate law reform, environmental concerns, skyrocketing health care costs, as well as new concerns over school and public safety, these are just some of the issues that legislators need to be knowledgeable about and make budgetary determinations. That's a lot of detail to be absorbed, and who better to help legislators unravel the complexities of public school issues than the school leaders who understand them best--that's you and your colleagues.

As districts prepare for the implementation of the common core curriculum and PARCC assessment, the requirements of RETELL, and the educator/administrator evaluation requirements, never has it been as imperative to remind legislators of the need to relax mandates on educators and provide sustain-

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cal approval of new charters (H.491). **(resolution proposed by the MASC Board of Directors)**

PRIOR LEGISLATION

An Act Relative to Charter Schools (H.491)

Sponsoring legislators: Representatives Smizik, O'Day, Turner, Swan, Ferrante, Malia, Sciortino, Provost, Vega, Balser, Brady, Lawn, Khan, Decker; Senators Jehlen, Creem. Two other bills were also filed replicating H. 491. S. 258 sponsored by: Senators Pacheco, Jehlen, Kennedy; Representatives Gregoire, Brady, Lawn and S. 212 sponsored by: Senator Clark; Representatives Kahn, Stanley, Swan, Andrews, Provost, David Rogers.

This proposed legislation was filed by MASC during the previous session. In addition to the present system of approving commonwealth charter schools, this legislation provides for the additional methods as follows: approval of a commonwealth charter school application by the district or regional school committee, or by the voters of a school district(s) or region(s) at a general election or town meeting(s), city councils. If the above

referenced local approval is received the new charter school shall be funded pursuant to current statute. If either method of local approval is not received funding must be provided by the Board of Education without usage of Chapter 70 or any other local funds. **(this resolution was originally submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)**

An Act Concerning Charter School Funding (S.222)

Sponsoring legislators: Senator DiDonenico; Representative Swan

It is the premise of this legislation that charter schools receive greater funding from the foundation budget for "assumed in school special education" than they are otherwise eligible to receive based upon the students they actually serve. This bill will correct the inflated reimbursement.

(this bill was originally sponsored by the Everett School Committee)

School Improvement Plans (H.414)

Sponsoring legislators: Representatives Haddad, Peisch

This bill seeks to correct an amendment that was added in the Senate to a Supplementary Budget, Chapter 65

of the Acts of 2004. This amendment removed school committees from their longstanding statutory role concerning the review and approval of school improvement plans submitted by school councils. The school committee is the policy making authority of the school district (G.L. c.71, §37). The review and approval of school improvement plans is an essential element of the policy making authority of school committees. As a result of the 2004 legislation superintendents now approve school improvement plans submitted by school councils. This bill will keep approval of superintendents and reinsert the approval of school committees.

Finally, in early December 2012 we were able to secure the agreement of all parties affected by this legislation and therefore, we anticipate the passage of this bill during the current legislative session.

MCAS Scores and Approved 766 Schools (H.455; S.205)

Sponsoring legislators: (H.455): Representatives Peisch, Turner; (S.205): Senator Chang-Diaz; Representative Sanicandro

This bill has been revised to address the issue of reporting aggregate MCAS scores for special needs students attending Approved Private 766 Schools. During the last session MASC was able to secure the passage of this amendment as it applies to education collaboratives. We are pleased to have secured the sponsorship of this legislation by the Joint Chairs of the Committee on Education.

An Act Including Transitory Student Enrollment in the Calculation of Aid Under Chapter 70 (S.239)

Sponsoring legislator: Senator Jehlen
This legislation seeks to recognize the category transitory student enrollment in Chapter 70 so that funds may be available to serve these needy students.

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able resources to districts. Legislators need to understand the critical importance of ensuring support for districts as they educate a diversity of students to succeed in the 21st century global workplace.

MASC's revamped **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY, Tuesday, May 21** is an invaluable opportunity for members to meet their legislators at their State House offices and reinforce the message that real achievement can only be accomplished with real dollars. Don't forget to make appointments in advance with your legislators and follow through with discussions on the future of education funding in an era of high expectations and excessive regulation.

Registration information has been mailed to all members and is posted online. The format for the day is informal and there is **no charge** to attend but we do ask that you register in order to ensure that sufficient materials are available for you to distribute and bring back to your district. In addition, copies of MASC's **Summary and Guide to Public Policy Priorities 2013** is being mailed to all members and we encourage you to use it as a starting point for discussion with your legislators.

Please contact the MASC with questions (800-392-6023) and check the website (www.masc.org) for registration information and updates. We look forward to seeing you at the State House on Tuesday, May 21.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCED

Earlier this month Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo and Senate President Therese Murray announced their Legislative Committee appointments. Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees with particular relevance to issues around public education are listed below.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BILLS IN THE THIRD READING

Rep. Theodore Speliotis, Chair
Rep. Paul McMurtry, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON POST AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

Rep. David Paul Linsky, Chair
Rep. Benjamin Swan, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Rep. John Binienda, Chair
Rep. Kate Hogan, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Rep. Brian Dempsey, Chair
Rep. Stephen Kulik, Vice Chair
Rep. Cheryl Coakley-Price, Assistant Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BILLS IN THE THIRD READING

Sen. Benjamin Downing, Chair
Sen. Anthony Petrucci, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND RULES

Sen. Stanley Rosenberg, Chair
Sen. Richard Moore, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON POST AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

Sen. Cynthia Stone Cream, Chair
Sen. Katherine Clark, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Sen. Stephen Brewer, Chair
Sen. Jennifer Flanagan, Vice Chair
Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, Chair
Rep. Alice Hanlon Peisch, Chair
Sen. Patricia Jehlen, Vice Chair
Rep. Denise Garlick, Vice Chair
(see sidebar for complete list of members)

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Sen. Michael Barrett, Chair
Rep. Kay Khan, Vice Chair
Sen. James Welch, Vice Chair
Rep. Marcos Devers, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAWS

Sen. Barry Feingold, Chair
Rep. James Murphy, Chair
Sen. William Brownsberger, Vice Chair
Rep. Linda Campbell, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Sen. Michael Moore, Chair
Rep. Tom Sannicandro, Chair
Sen. Eileen Donoghue, Vice Chair
Rep. Paul Mark, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sen. Daniel Wolf, Chair
Rep. Thomas Conroy, Chair
Sen. Michael Barrett, Vice Chair
Rep. Lori Erlich, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Sen. Joan Lovely, Chair
Rep. Elizabeth Malia, Chair
Sen. Katherine Clark, Vice Chair
Rep. Angelo Scaccia, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPALITIES & REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

Sen. Sal Di Domenico, Chair
Rep. Sarah Peake, Chair
Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, Vice Chair
Rep. Gailanne Cariddi, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Sen. John Keenan, Chair
Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez, Chair
Sen. Marc Pacheco, Vice Chair
Rep. Jason Lewis, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Sen. James Timilty, Chair
Rep. Harold Naughton, Jr., Chair
Sen. Michael Moore, Vice Chair
Rep. Michael Brady, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE

Sen. William Brownsberger, Chair
Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Chair
Sen. Michael Rodrigues, Vice Chair
Rep. John Lawn, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON REVENUE

Sen. Michael Rodriguez, Chair
Rep. Jay Kaufman, Chair
Sen. James Timilty, Vice Chair
Rep. Timothy Toomey, Jr., Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION & REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

Sen. Kenneth Donnelly, Chair
Rep. Peter Kocot, Chair
Sen. Daniel Wolf, Vice Chair
Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Vice Chair

TIPS to EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

Working with your legislators and making your concerns known isn't just for one day a year. Below are some insights from lawmakers and their all-important aides on how to communicate your message most effectively.

KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS. Legislators trust people they know. Make it a point to know your local legislators—and their aides! Communicate with them regularly. Attend their local “office hours” and community meetings. Also, take the time to assemble information about your legislators before you contact them on an issue. Many public policy makers have experiences that can relate to the issues you will raise.

PLAY A TEACHING ROLE. Provide helpful and accurate information. Legislators appreciate having timely, factual information that is reliably accurate and free of rhetoric. When you have information that is important or research that bolsters your point of view, share it with legislators and their staff. Don't forget to provide them with contact information and offer to serve as a resource for them.

COMMUNICATE WITH THE STAFF. Legislative staff are an important part of the process. They review and analyze legislation, attend hearings and community meetings, and assist legislators in developing positions. Also, they are often the legislators of tomorrow.

BE VISIBLE. Let them see you at the State House. Let them read about your stances in the local media.

RESPECT AND UNDERSTAND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. Lawmaking is part of the political process. It takes time to hear everyone with a point of view, special interest, or area of expertise. Legislators are under constant pressure to appease several interests. School committee members, who respond to more single-issue constituents (parents) than anyone else should understand that.

RESPECT THE TRUTH. Your credibility, like your word, is as good as it is consistent. When you are careless with the truth, or selectively economical with your facts, you damage your credibility.

BRIEF IS GOOD. Make your point and don't waste time. And when you write, spend words as you would spend money. Keep it simple.

Say thanks. School committee members know how rarely people thank them for the difficult and controversial work they do. When your legislators deliver for you or supports your bills, make it a point to let them know that you're paying attention and that you're grateful.

MASC files legislation

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Funding for Education Evaluation System

Pursuant to the resolution submitted to the Delegate Assembly by the MASC Board of Directors, MASC will work with the Office of the State Auditor to identify unfunded mandates.

Adequacy Study

Pursuant to the resolution submitted to the Delegate Assembly by the MASC Board of Directors, MASC will support legislation to be filed by MASS Partners or other such group concerning this matter.

Upcoming MASC Events

Thursday, May 1

DIVISION VIII LEGISLATIVE FORUM
Nashoba Voc. Tech., Westford

Saturday, May 4

MASHPEE HIGH SCHOOL

- [Charting the Course](#) (8am-4pm)
- [Parliamentary Procedure/Role of the Chair](#) (8am-1pm)

Saturday, May 18

TAHANTO JR./SR. HIGH, BOYLSTON

- [Charting the Course](#) (8am-4pm)
- [Collective Bargaining for Student Achievement](#) (8am-1pm)

MASC

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[One McKinley Square](#)

Massachusetts Association of School Committees