

**SENATE . . . . . No. 254**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Cynthia S. Creem*

*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 authorizing a study of starting times and schedules.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                          | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                      |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Cynthia S. Creem</i>        | <i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>     |
| <i>William N. Brownsberger</i> | <i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>    |
| <i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>       | <i>8th Middlesex</i>                   |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i>       | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>         |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i>          | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>Paul Brodeur</i>            | <i>32nd Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Paul McMurry</i>            | <i>11th Norfolk</i>                    |
| <i>Ruth B. Balse</i>           | <i>12th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Michael S. Day</i>          | <i>31st Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i>          | <i>23rd Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>      | <i>13th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Tom Sannicandro</i>         | <i>7th Middlesex</i>                   |
| <i>Timothy R. Madden</i>       | <i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i> |

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By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 254) of Cynthia S. Creem, William N. Brownsberger, Carolyn C. Dykema, James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation to authorize a study of school day starting times and schedules. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 215 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act authorizing a study of starting times and schedules.

*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. There shall be an educational task force to review the effect of school day  
2 start times for middle school and secondary school students. The task force shall consist of 9  
3 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education, or their designees,  
4 who shall serve as co-chairs of the task force; the secretary of education, or a designee; the  
5 commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or a designee; the executive director of  
6 the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, or a designee, the executive director of the  
7 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, or a designee; the executive director of  
8 the Massachusetts Association of Secondary School Principals, or a designee; the executive  
9 director of StartSchoolLater.net, or a designee; and a superintendent from a district which has  
10 implemented later school day starting times.

11           The task force shall: (i) conduct a comprehensive study, including a review of the  
12 scientific findings relative to sleep needs of adolescents, relative to the effect which middle  
13 school and secondary school start times have on the health and academic performance of  
14 students; (ii) determine the number of districts in the Commonwealth which have implemented  
15 later school day starting times for middle school and secondary schools and examine the  
16 academic performance of students, including performance on statewide tests; and (iii) identify  
17 resources and opportunities to assist districts in implementing later school day start times for  
18 middle school and secondary schools.

19           The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including  
20 legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the clerks of the house and senate by  
21 June 30, 2016.