

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3604**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Thomas A. Golden, Jr.***

*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 online education for high school students for college credit.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3604**

By Mr. Golden of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3604) of Thomas A. Golden, Jr. and others that the Department of Higher Education conduct a study evaluating the availability of online courses offered as part of a dual enrollment program hosted by certified institutions of higher education located in the Commonwealth. Higher Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to online education for high school students for college credit.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 (a) The department of higher education shall conduct a study evaluating the availability  
2 of online courses that are offered as part of a dual enrollment program hosted by a certified  
3 institution of higher education located in the commonwealth.

4 (b) The study shall: (i) analyze the availability of such courses during the months of  
5 May, June, July, and August; (ii) identify areas of the commonwealth with inadequate access to  
6 such courses; (iii) take into account any standards or guidelines established by other state  
7 governments regarding online dual enrollment; and (iv) determine whether inadequate access to  
8 such courses disproportionately affects municipalities with a rate of educational attainment of a  
9 bachelor’s degree or above that is below the commonwealth’s average, a population greater than  
10 35,000 and less than 250,000, and a median household income below the commonwealth's  
11 average.

12 (c) The study shall provide recommendations to expand the availability of online courses  
13 in the commonwealth. If in conducting the study, the department determines that there have been  
14 any disproportionate impacts to the municipalities described in clause (iv) of subsection (b), the  
15 department shall consider targeted measures to expand the availability of such courses in those  
16 areas, and shall provide such recommendations in the study.

17 (d) Within 180 days after the effective date of this act, the department shall submit a  
18 report on its findings to the clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the chairs of the  
19 joint committee on education and the chairs of the joint committee on higher education.