

HOUSE No. 01962

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Martha M. Walz

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to safe and supportive schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Geraldo Alicea</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 01962

By Ms. Walz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1962) of Wolf and others for legislation to ensure behavioral health and safety in the public schools Joint Committee on Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to safe and supportive schools.

Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is forthwith to create safe and supportive school environments , therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

□

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 2008 Official Edition, is
- 2 hereby amended by adding after section 1N the following section:-
- 3 Section 1O. (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall, in consultation
- 4 with the advisory commission established pursuant to this section, maintain and update, when
- 5 necessary, the behavioral health and public schools framework developed by the task force on
- 6 behavioral health and public schools pursuant to section 19 of chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008.

7 The department shall: (i) provide technical assistance on using the assessment tool developed
8 pursuant to section 19 of chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008 to measure the capacity of schools to
9 address children's behavioral health needs, collaborate with behavioral health services and
10 provide supportive school environments; (ii) publish guidelines for implementing the behavioral
11 health and public schools framework in schools; and (iii) establish a grant program, subject to
12 appropriation, to test and develop an effective process for school districts to implement the
13 behavioral health and public schools framework as set forth in this section. The program shall
14 require the first cohorts of schools implementing the framework to participate as members of the
15 advisory commission established pursuant to this section.

16 (b) There shall be an advisory commission to examine and make recommendations relative to the
17 statewide implementation of the behavioral health and public schools framework. The
18 commission shall consist of the secretary of education or his designee and the commissioner of
19 elementary and secondary education or his designee, who shall serve as co-chairs of the
20 commission; a parent of a child with behavioral health challenges; a regular education teacher; a
21 special education teacher; an early childhood education teacher; a post-secondary education
22 teacher; a school nurse; a member of the board of elementary and secondary education; a
23 representative from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; a representative
24 from the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association; a representative from the
25 Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education; a representative from the Massachusetts
26 Teachers Association; and 3 representatives from community-based behavioral health providers,
27 1 of whom works with schools, 1 of whom works with parents of children with behavioral health
28 needs, and 1 of whom has expertise in the behavioral health effects of trauma.

30 The commission shall, on the basis of one or more findings and recommendations included in the
31 reports submitted by the behavioral health and public schools task force in accordance with
32 section 19 of chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008, make recommendations relative to the statewide
33 implementation of the framework, including the specific timelines and resources necessary for
34 such implementation, and to address critical issues, such as: (i) consistent access to culturally and
35 linguistically appropriate services; (ii) the development of data systems to measure outcomes of
36 school success; (iii) professional development for all staff; and (iv) best practices for
37 collaboration with parents of children with behavioral health needs. The commission shall have
38 access to data which shall be maintained by the department to oversee and evaluate the outcomes
39 resulting from the implementation of the framework, and shall have authority to convene
40 stakeholders to facilitate solutions to challenges as they arise in the implementation process.

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42 The commission shall issue a final report containing recommendations on or before June 30,
43 2012. The commission shall report to the general court its recommendations, together with
44 drafts of legislation necessary to carry out such recommendations, if any, by filing the same with
45 the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward the same to the chairs
46 of the joint committee on education on or before June 30, 2012.

47 SECTION 2. Section 59C of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended
48 by inserting after the first sentence in the fifth paragraph, in line 48, the following sentence:-
49 Said plan shall contain the school's planned actions for implementing the behavioral health and
50 public schools framework set forth in section 10 of chapter 69 by December 31, 2016.

51 SECTION 3. Said section 59C of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by
52 inserting after the fifth paragraph the following paragraph:-

53 Each school district shall develop a district-wide plan for implementing the behavioral health and
54 public schools framework set forth in section 10 of chapter 69. Said plan shall contain outcome
55 measures and a plan to support the district's schools to implement the framework as set forth in
56 their school improvement plans.