

SENATE No. 265

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael F. Rush

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 to further define the term "bullying".

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Michael F. Rush

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk and Suffolk

SENATE No. 265

By Mr. Rush, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 265) of Michael F. Rush for legislation to further define the term "bullying". Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to further define the term "bullying".

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. Section 37O of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place
3 thereof the following:-

4 “Bullying”, the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic
5 expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim because
6 of gender, race, age, religion, sexual orientation, physical appearance, physical or cognitive
7 abilities, physical or mental disabilities, education level, socioeconomic factors, illnesses, ethnic
8 or cultural background, or any other characteristic that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to
9 the victim or damage to the victim’s property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to
10 himself or of damage to his property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim;
11 (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the
12 education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of this section, bullying
13 shall include cyber-bullying.