

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 852**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Denise Provost*

*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 protecting school children from environmental toxins.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/16/2019</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>1/22/2019</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>

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By Ms. Provost of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 852) of Denise Provost and others that the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Health be directed to develop health risk assessment guidelines of proposed school construction sites. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 462 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act protecting school children from environmental toxins.

*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. This Act maybe cited as the 'School Protection Act.'

2 SECTION 2. This bill is intended to protect children and personnel of public schools in  
3 Massachusetts from exposure to environmental toxins, and consequent damage to health.

4 SECTION 3. Section 3 of Chapter 21A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
5 amended by inserting after subsection 3(e) the following section:

6 Section 3 (1) (i) the department of environmental protection, in consultation with the  
7 department of public health, shall promulgate regulations based on the best available science, to  
8 establish health risk assessment guidelines and procedures for evaluating proposed sites for the

9 construction, expansion, or acquisition, by lease, purchase or otherwise, of sites for publicly-  
10 funded schools, including charter schools.

11 (ii) Such regulations shall require, at minimum, that the public body responsible for a  
12 proposed school siting conduct a public participation plan for the siting process, to be approved  
13 by the department, and that such public body conduct an Initial Environmental Assessment (IEA)  
14 for any site it proposes. The public body shall be required to hire a licensed environmental  
15 professional, with credentials to be determined by the department of environmental protection, to  
16 conduct an Initial Environmental Assessment (IEA), the scope and content of which shall be set  
17 forth in the regulations of the department, and which shall include information on current and  
18 past site uses, contamination on the site, and in its vicinity, and potential sources of pollution, to  
19 determine whether the site was likely contaminated by hazardous substances.

20 Such regulations shall require that the IEA identify any of the following sources of  
21 contamination within two miles of a proposed school site:

22 Any known or suspected hazardous, industrial, or municipal waste disposal site;

23 Any private, commercial, industrial, military, or government facility where toxic  
24 chemicals were used, stored or disposed of;

25 Refineries, mines, scrap yards, factories, dry cleaning facilities or sites where there have  
26 been

27 chemical spills or other significant contamination;

28 US EPA or state designated Brownfield site (even if remediated); or a site all of part of  
29 which is subject to an Activity and Use Limitation;

30 Facilities found on EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI);  
31 Agricultural land where pesticides and herbicides have been applied;  
32 Dust generators such as fertilizer or cement plants, or saw mills;  
33 Leaked gasoline or other products from underground storage tanks;  
34 Concentrated electrical magnetic fields from high intensity power lines and cellular  
35 communication towers;  
36 Freeways, highways, or other roadways that have 50,000 or more motor vehicles trips on  
37 an average day;  
38 Railroad yards and beds; and  
39 Wastewater treatment plants.

40 If a proposed site was previously used for hazardous or garbage waste disposal, or for  
41 disposal of construction and demolition materials, or if it is within 1,000 feet of any property  
42 used for these purposes, then the site shall be excluded from consideration for use as a school.

43 The department of environmental protection shall provide that it review the final draft of  
44 the Initial Environmental Assessment. DEP may give preliminary approval to the assessment,  
45 disapprove the assessment, request more information, or exclude the site from school use. When  
46 the final draft of the IEA is complete and has received preliminary approval by the DEP, the  
47 Public Body shall publish and otherwise disclose to the public such information as DEP shall by  
48 regulation require; proceed with its approved public participation plan, and vote on whether to  
49 continue its consideration of a site.

50           If a proposed site is within 1,000 feet of any potential source of contamination including  
51 those listed as items A-L above, the department shall by regulation require that a Preliminary  
52 Endangerment Assessment (PEA), be conducted. A PEA shall also be required if any data or  
53 information collected in the Initial Environmental Assessment reveals that the site, or any portion  
54 of the site, is subject to serious pollution exposures from any source.

55           If a PEA is not otherwise required as stated above, then the licensed environmental  
56 professional shall determine whether a PEA is warranted for a proposed site, and shall state in  
57 writing the facts that provide the basis for this determination. DEP shall by regulation provide for  
58 the scope and content of the PEA, including risk assessment methodologies, descriptions of all  
59 pathways of exposure to any source of air pollution or toxic substances on or near the site, and  
60 description of the health consequences of exposure to such substance.

61           If existing contamination is discovered as at the site, the levels found should be compared  
62 to the Brownfield Cleanup Program soil cleanup standards for unrestricted use developed by the  
63 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, or such other, similar standards as  
64 the department of environmental protection may by regulation designate. Air pollution sources  
65 shall be monitored on multiple days for comparison with UP EPA 24-hour exposure limits for  
66 the relevant pollutant.

67           If contaminant levels exceed any of these values, a PEA shall be conducted. If any  
68 portion of a proposed site is found to be contaminated, then the entire site must undergo a PEA.

69           The department of environmental protection will review all comments received on the  
70 Preliminary Endangerment Assessment, and will then accept or reject the conclusion of the  
71 assessment, and recommend whether the site can be used without further remediation or study,

72 whether the site is categorically excluded for use as a school, or whether further study is  
73 required. DEP shall explain its reasons for accepting or rejecting the assessment. Once DEP has  
74 approved the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment, the public body shall review the  
75 assessment and public comments received.

76 The Public Body shall then, subject to its approved public participation plan, consider the  
77 PEA and comments on it. It shall then vote whether to abandon the site, proceed with a  
78 remediation plan, or to consider an alternative site.

79 DEP shall, by regulation, adopt criteria and methodologies for the cleanup of  
80 contaminated sites and mitigation of health hazards on sites deemed otherwise suitable for use as  
81 schools.

82 SECTION 4. Mass DEP shall publish testing reports on its website all Initial  
83 Environmental Assessments and Preliminary Endangerment Assessments submitted to it, and  
84 otherwise make them available to the public.

85 SECTION 5. Section 3 Chapter 70B of the General Laws, so as appearing, is hereby  
86 amended by inserting the following paragraph:

87 The Massachusetts School Building Authority shall provide all applicants with the DEP's  
88 applicable regulations. MSBA shall neither approve nor provide financial support to a project  
89 until it has completed the site evaluation process provided by law, and received all required  
90 approvals.

91 SECTION 6. The Massachusetts Development Finance Agency shall inform all  
92 applicants for grants or loans with the department of environmental protection's applicable

93 regulations. The Massachusetts Development Finance Agency shall provide no financial support,  
94 whether grant, loan, loan guarantee, or any other financing or financial aid, to any school project  
95 until the applicant has completed the site evaluation process provided by law, and received all  
96 required approvals.

97 SECTION 7. The department of environmental protection, or any group of ten aggrieved  
98 citizens, may apply to the superior court for relief for any alleged violation of this act, and the  
99 regulations adopted pursuant to it.

100 SECTION 8. Definitions

101 "school" shall mean an educational facility, from pre-kindergarten through grade 12,  
102 which is funded in whole or in part by public funds, including charter schools.

103 "public body" shall mean a school committee, regional school district, board of directors  
104 of a charter school or any other lawfully constituted body authorized to locate, re-locate, build,  
105 reconstruct, expand, or renovate a school within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.