HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1223 FILED ON: 2/2/2021

HOUSE . . . . . No. 616

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Higgins and Tami L. Gouveia

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 the promotion of mental health education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Natalie M. Higgins	*4th Worcester*	*2/2/2021*
Tami L. Gouveia	*14th Middlesex*	*2/2/2021*
Michael P. Kushmerek	*3rd Worcester*	*2/23/2021*
Elizabeth A. Malia	*11th Suffolk*	*2/25/2021*
Jack Patrick Lewis	*7th Middlesex*	*2/26/2021*
James K. Hawkins	*2nd Bristol*	*3/3/2021*
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	*1st Hampshire*	*3/3/2021*
Susannah M. Whipps	*2nd Franklin*	*3/29/2021*
Christina A. Minicucci	*14th Essex*	*4/20/2021*

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By Representatives Higgins of Leominster and Gouveia of Acton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 616) of Natalie M. Higgins, Tami L. Gouveia and others relative to the promotion of mental health education. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *482* OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

An Act relative to the promotion of mental health education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Chapter 71 is hereby amended by striking the first sentence and inserting in place the following:- “Physical and mental health education shall be taught as required subjects in all grades for all students in the public schools for the purpose of promoting the physical and mental well-being of such students. Mental health education programs shall recognize multiple dimensions of health by including mental health, and the relationship of physical health and mental health, so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes and behaviors that promote health, well-being and human dignity.”

SECTION 2. Section 1 of Chapter 76 is hereby amended by striking the last sentence and inserting in place the following:- “For the purposes of this section, school committees shall approve a private school when satisfied that the instruction in all the studies required by law

equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that in the public schools in the same town, in addition to the incorporation of a mental health education program into the curriculum in accordance with the provisions in section three of chapter seventy-one; but shall not withhold such approval on account of religious teaching, and, in order to protect children from the hazards of traffic and promote their safety, cities and towns may appropriate money for conveying pupils to and from any schools approved under this section.”