

SENATE No. 290

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sonia Chang-Diaz

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 prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>3/1/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>5/10/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>5/12/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/14/2021</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>11/30/2021</i>

SENATE No. 290

By Ms. Chang-Diaz, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 290) of Sonia Chang-Diaz, Michael J. Barrett, Joanne M. Comerford and Erika Uyterhoeven for legislation to prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to prioritize violence prevention and social emotional health in school support staff hiring.

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

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 37P the following section:-

3 Section 37P½. Ratio of school resource officers to mental and social emotional health
4 support personnel

5 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless
6 the context clearly requires otherwise:-

7 “Mental and social emotional health support personnel”, employees hired by an
8 individual school or local education agency in a role that primarily provides social emotional
9 support or mental health services to students, including but not limited to school adjustment
10 counselors and social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists. Roles that primarily provide
11 academic, instructional, administrative, educator, or parent support are excluded from this term.

12 “School resource officers”, as defined in section 37P.

13 (b) Local education agencies shall not employ, accept assignment of, or otherwise staff
14 more than one full time equivalent school resource officer or other security personnel for every
15 seven full time equivalent mental and social emotional health support personnel.

16 (c) Nothing in this section shall prevent local education agencies from hiring or
17 maintaining mental and social emotional health support personnel at a rate higher than the ratio
18 defined in subsection (b).

19 (d) The department of elementary and secondary education shall collect data on the
20 number of mental and social emotional health support personnel to number of school resource
21 officers and security personnel employed by or assigned to each local education agency, as well
22 as the sources of funding used to employ or staff each of the above personnel pursuant to
23 subsection (b).