

SENATE No. 242

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 establishing a Green and Healthy Schools working group and implementation plan.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>

SENATE No. 242

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 242) of Joanne M. Comerford and Mindy Domb for legislation to establish a green and healthy schools working group and implementation plan. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act establishing a Green and Healthy Schools working group and implementation plan.

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

1 The department of public health shall convene an interagency working group on Green
2 and Healthy Schools for the Coming Decades. The working group shall advise commonwealth
3 agencies, local officials, school districts, parents and the public concerning steps to assure that all
4 schools provide students with a healthy environment that is conducive to learning, protects safety
5 and public health, and efficiently uses energy and natural resources.

6 The working group shall (i) advise the department of public health on the implementation
7 of section 83 of chapter 179 of the acts of 2022, including factors to be included in the
8 assessment under said section; and (ii) recommend a plan for implementing and enforcing green
9 and healthy school standards for cost-effective renovation and rehabilitation of existing school
10 buildings and for new school building construction for all schools by 2050. The plan shall
11 include a recommended division of responsibility among state agencies for implementation and
12 enforcement of the plan, and a designated agency to take overall management responsibility for

13 implementing the plan. The plan shall include 5-year benchmarks and implementation
14 milestones, and shall include procedures for publicly reporting and assessing progress towards
15 achieving the benchmarks for each 5-year period.

16 The working group shall include representatives of the department of public health,
17 Massachusetts School Building Authority, the department of elementary and secondary
18 education, the department of energy resources and other agencies of the commonwealth
19 designated by the department of public health. The working group shall consult with groups
20 representing educators and school administrators, parents, municipalities, architects, experts in
21 school health and energy efficiency, and others with expertise or interest in their work. Not later
22 than 1 year after the effective date of this section, the working group shall hold no less than 2
23 public listening sessions in separate regions of the commonwealth to receive public opinion on
24 the matters before the working group.

25 Following the filing of the report by the department of public health under subsection (b)
26 of said section 83, the department of public health, Massachusetts School Building Authority, the
27 department of elementary and secondary education, and the department of energy resources shall
28 implement and enforce standards as recommended by the working group for the green and
29 healthy renovation and rehabilitation of existing school buildings and for new school building
30 construction for all schools by 2050.