

SENATE No. 282

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi

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 promote a healthy culture and climate within schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>

SENATE No. 282

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 282) of Anne M. Gobi and Steven S. Howitt for legislation to promote a healthy culture and climate within schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to promote a healthy culture and climate within schools.

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 37 H ³/₄ of Chapter 71, as so appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by striking out section (b) and inserting in place thereof the following
3 section:-

4 (b) Any principal, headmaster, superintendent or person acting as a decision-maker at a
5 student meeting or hearing, when deciding the consequences for the student, shall consider ways
6 to re-engage the student in the learning process; and shall not suspend or expel a student until
7 alternative remedies have been employed and their use and results documented, following and in
8 direct response to a specific incident or incidents, unless specific reasons are documented as to
9 why such alternative remedies are unsuitable or counter-productive, except, however, in cases
10 where the student’s continued presence in school would pose a specific, documentable concern
11 about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm upon another person while in
12 school or has caused a significant disruption to the learning environment for other students.

13 Alternative remedies may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) mediation; (ii) conflict

14 resolution; (iii) restorative justice; and (iv) collaborative problem-solving. The principal,
15 headmaster, superintendent or person acting as a decision-maker shall also implement school- or
16 district-wide models to re-engage students in the learning process which shall include but not be
17 limited to: (i) positive behavioral interventions and supports models and (ii) trauma-sensitive
18 learning models; provided, however, that school- or district-wide models shall not be considered
19 a direct response to a specific incident.