

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 598**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Natalie M. Higgins and Meghan K. Kilcoyne*

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*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.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Meghan K. Kilcoyne</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/21/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/28/2025</i>
<i>Sally P. Kerans</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>	<i>3/5/2025</i>
<i>Adrienne Pusateri Ramos</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>3/7/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/31/2025</i>

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By Representatives Higgins of Leominster and Kilcoyne of Clinton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 598) of Natalie M. Higgins, Meghan K. Kilcoyne and others relative to the promotion of mental health education in public schools. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 497 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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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:*

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

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

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