

HOUSE No. 741

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marcus S. Vaughn

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 alert systems in public schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/3/2025</i>
<i>John J. Marsi</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>	<i>6/25/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 741

By Representative Vaughn of Wrentham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 741) of Marcus S. Vaughn relative to public schools' emergency alert systems. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3881 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to alert systems in public 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 37R of Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the
2 definition of ‘Two-way communication device’ the following definition:-

3 ‘Silent panic alarm,’ a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of
4 a device with the intent to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring an
5 immediate response from law enforcement.

6 Section 37R is hereby further amended by striking out subsection (c) and inserting in
7 place thereof the following subsection:-

8 (c) Each school shall, subject to appropriation, possess and have access to at least one
9 silent panic alarm for use in a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring immediate
10 response from law enforcement, including but not limited to an active shooter situation,

11 lockdown, or armed or unarmed intruder on school grounds. The alarm shall be directly linked to
12 local law enforcement and shall immediately transmit a signal or message to such authorities
13 upon activation. The alarm shall not be audible within the school building and shall be equipped
14 with an emergency light which turns on when the alarm is activated.

15 Section 37R is hereby further amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following
16 subsection:-

17 (d) No public employer shall be liable for injury, loss of property, personal injury or
18 death caused by an act or omission of a public employee while acting in the scope of the public
19 employee's employment and arising out of the implementation of this section, This section shall
20 not be construed as creating or imposing a specific duty of care.