

HOUSE No. 749

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas P. Walsh

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 requiring critical incident drills in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Thomas P. Walsh</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 749

By Representative Walsh of Peabody, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 749) of Thomas P. Walsh relative to requiring critical incident drills in schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 610 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act requiring critical incident drills in 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 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the superintendent of each
2 school district shall, prior to the beginning of the school year, meet with the fire chief and police
3 chief of the city, town or district to formulate a school specific critical incident plan for each
4 school under the superintendent's supervision. The critical incident plan shall encompass, but not
5 be limited to, procedures for disasters in which serious bodily injury might occur, shootings,
6 terrorist activities and bomb threats.

7 The plan shall be designed for each school building after a review of each building. The
8 plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) establishment of a critical incident drill program that
9 incorporates best practices established by the federal Department of Homeland Security; (2)
10 establishment of a crisis response team; (3) a designation as to who is in charge of said team and

11 designated substitutes; (4) a communication plan; (5) crisis procedures for safe entrance to and
12 exit from the school by students, parents and employees; and (6) policies for enforcing school
13 discipline and maintaining a safe and orderly environment during the incident . Each district,
14 with the assistance of the local police and fire departments, shall annually review and update as
15 appropriate the plan.

16 At the beginning of each school year, students at each school shall be instructed as to the
17 plan that is developed.

18 The police chief or a designee shall visit each school at least 2 times each year for the
19 purpose of conducting critical incident drills. These drills shall be conducted without advance
20 warning to the school personnel other than the person in charge of the school at the time.