

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Alice Hanlon Peisch*

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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 training of school committee members.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>

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

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[Pin Slip]

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to the training of school committee members.

*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 36A of the chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
2           2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking section 36A and replacing it with the  
3           following section: -

4           Section 36A. School committee members, within three months after their initial election  
5           or appointment, shall complete at least 8 hours of orientation concerning the responsibilities of  
6           their office at no cost to individual school committee members. The orientation shall include but  
7           not be limited to a review of school finance, Chapter 70 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the  
8           statewide education goals and academic standards as described in Section 1D of of Chapter 69  
9           the General Laws, the open meeting law, public records law, conflict of interest law, special  
10          education law, collective bargaining, school leadership standards and evaluations and the roles  
11          and responsibilities of school committee members. The orientation shall be developed by the  
12          Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. and may be provided by the  
13          Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc. or any other entity approved by the

14 commissioner of education. The Association and any other entity providing such orientation  
15 shall offer every year at least 3 orientation sessions at no required cost to eligible school  
16 committees. A certificate shall be awarded to each participant upon completion of the orientation  
17 and notice thereof shall be filed with the clerk of the city or town where the school committee  
18 member resides. Failure to comply with the orientation outlined in this section will disqualify the  
19 school committee member from participating in any formal business before the committee.