

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Julian Cyr

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 building resilience and increasing access to mental health services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Julian Cyr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Cape and Islands

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1244 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act building resilience and increasing access to mental health services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 There shall be a mental health capacity grant program established within the department
2 of mental health for the purpose of addressing increased mental health needs in nonprofit
3 organizations at high-risk of hate crime and nonprofits that serve populations at high risk of hate
4 crimes, as defined in section 32 of chapter 22c of the General Laws.

5 The program shall make grants available to nonprofit organizations at high risk of hate
6 crimes and those that serve populations at high risk of hate crimes, as defined in section 32 of
7 chapter 22c of the General Laws, to increase behavioral health competency of staff who have
8 frequent interactions with targeted communities and to expand supportive programming to the
9 same populations. The grants shall be used to support programming determined by an
10 organization’s specific needs to address mental health including but not limited to: (a) mental
11 health first aid training; (b) culturally responsive referral programs; (c) community education and

12 de-stigmatization of mental health supports; and (d) any other programming shown to effectively
13 impact positive mental health.

14 Subject to appropriation, the department shall promulgate regulations to develop
15 provisions around grantmaking including that the grants shall be distributed in a geographically
16 equitable manner across the commonwealth and distributed in a manner that correlates with bias
17 types included in the preceding year's annual hate crime report by the Massachusetts Executive
18 Office of Public Safety and Security.

19 No later than 6 months from the distribution of the first grant, the commissioner shall file
20 a report with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on mental
21 health, substance use and recovery, the joint committee on racial equity, civil rights, and
22 inclusion, and the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing the grant program,
23 which shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of applications received; (ii) the number
24 of grants awarded; (iii) the dollar amount per grant; (iv) the organizational mission of each
25 grantee; and (v) the type of programming supported by each grant.