

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*John C. Velis*

*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 mental health of children in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*John C. Velis*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Hampden and Hampshire*

SENATE . . . . . No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1273 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the mental health of children 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 Section 1 of chapter 76 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by inserting after the word “week” the following sentences:-

3 Absences may also be permitted for mental health symptoms; provided further, that said  
4 absences shall be excused in the same manner as physical health symptoms; and provided  
5 further, that required documentation, from guardians or health professionals, shall be consistent  
6 with physical health absences documentation. When documentation is required from a health  
7 care professional, a school shall accept documentation from licensed mental health care  
8 professionals in the same manner as documentation from other health care professionals. A  
9 student with an absence due to mental or behavioral health shall be offered the opportunity to  
10 meet with a certified school counselor upon return to school but said student shall not be required  
11 to do so.