

HOUSE No. 1962

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Martha M. Walz

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 safe and supportive schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Geraldo Alicea</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 1962

By Ms. Walz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1962) of Martha M. Walz and others for legislation to ensure behavioral health and safety in the public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to safe and supportive schools.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to create safe and supportive school environments , therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding after section 1N the following section:-

3 Section 1O. (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall, in
4 consultation with the advisory commission established pursuant to this section, maintain and
5 update, when necessary, the behavioral health and public schools framework developed by the
6 task force on behavioral health and public schools pursuant to section 19 of chapter 321 of the
7 Acts of 2008.

8 The department shall: (i) provide technical assistance on using the assessment tool
9 developed pursuant to section 19 of chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008 to measure the capacity of
10 schools to address children’s behavioral health needs, collaborate with behavioral health services
11 and provide supportive school environments; (ii) publish guidelines for implementing the

12 behavioral health and public schools framework in schools; and (iii) establish a grant program,
13 subject to appropriation, to test and develop an effective process for school districts to implement
14 the behavioral health and public schools framework as set forth in this section. The program shall
15 require the first cohorts of schools implementing the framework to participate as members of the
16 advisory commission established pursuant to this section.

17 (b) There shall be an advisory commission to examine and make recommendations
18 relative to the statewide implementation of the behavioral health and public schools framework.
19 The commission shall consist of the secretary of education or his designee and the commissioner
20 of elementary and secondary education or his designee, who shall serve as co-chairs of the
21 commission; a parent of a child with behavioral health challenges; a regular education teacher; a
22 special education teacher; an early childhood education teacher; a post-secondary education
23 teacher; a school nurse; a member of the board of elementary and secondary education; a
24 representative from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; a representative
25 from the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association; a representative from the
26 Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education; a representative from the Massachusetts
27 Teachers Association; and 3 representatives from community-based behavioral health providers,
28 1 of whom works with schools, 1 of whom works with parents of children with behavioral health
29 needs, and 1 of whom has expertise in the behavioral health effects of trauma.

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31 The commission shall, on the basis of one or more findings and recommendations
32 included in the reports submitted by the behavioral health and public schools task force in
33 accordance with section 19 of chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008, make recommendations relative

34 to the statewide implementation of the framework, including the specific timelines and resources
35 necessary for such implementation, and to address critical issues, such as: (i) consistent access to
36 culturally and linguistically appropriate services; (ii) the development of data systems to measure
37 outcomes of school success; (iii) professional development for all staff; and (iv) best practices
38 for collaboration with parents of children with behavioral health needs. The commission shall
39 have access to data which shall be maintained by the department to oversee and evaluate the
40 outcomes resulting from the implementation of the framework, and shall have authority to
41 convene stakeholders to facilitate solutions to challenges as they arise in the implementation
42 process.

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44 The commission shall issue a final report containing recommendations on or before June
45 30, 2012. The commission shall report to the general court its recommendations, together with
46 drafts of legislation necessary to carry out such recommendations, if any, by filing the same with
47 the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward the same to the chairs
48 of the joint committee on education on or before June 30, 2012.

49 SECTION 2. Section 59C of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
50 amended by inserting after the first sentence in the fifth paragraph, in line 48, the following
51 sentence:- Said plan shall contain the school's planned actions for implementing the behavioral
52 health and public schools framework set forth in section 10 of chapter 69 by December 31,
53 2016.

54 SECTION 3. Said section 59C of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further
55 amended by inserting after the fifth paragraph the following paragraph:-

56 Each school district shall develop a district-wide plan for implementing the behavioral
57 health and public schools framework set forth in section 10 of chapter 69. Said plan shall
58 contain outcome measures and a plan to support the district's schools to implement the
59 framework as set forth in their school improvement plans.