SENATE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/13/2009

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

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Brian A. Joyce**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to polling place safety.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Brian A. Joyce | Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act relative to polling place safety.

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

Section 24 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

The aldermen in cities, except where city or town charters provide otherwise, and the selectmen of towns divided into voting precincts, shall not designate any school building or school premises as a polling place for any voting precinct, unless they have made every reasonable effort to find or provide for a suitable alternative venue. Any school building or school premises that is designated as a polling place shall be open for polling and voting purposes only and no session of school shall be held in said building or premises on the day of any special or general election. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, school staff development days may be held on the day of any special or general election at the discretion of the local school superintendent and/or school committee.