

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

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Antonio F.D. Cabral**

*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 to prevent bullying.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Antonio F.D. Cabral	13th Bristol
Stephen L. DiNatale	3rd Worcester

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
\_\_\_\_\_

## AN ACT TO PREVENT BULLYING.

*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 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 37N the  
2 following section:

3

4 Section 37O. (a) Any teacher, school staff or administrator of a school that is required to adopt a bullying  
5 prevention and intervention plan or any employee of an entity hired by such a school to perform tasks  
6 which involve interaction with students, who shall have reasonable cause to believe that a child is either  
7 the perpetrator or the victim of bullying on school grounds, in school vehicles, at school bus stops or at  
8 school activities or school sanctioned events, shall, in addition to any reporting requirements contained  
9 in plans adopted pursuant to this subsection, shall immediately report such activity by oral  
10 communication to the principal or the person designated to receive said reports by the plan adopted  
11 pursuant to this subsection and the superintendent and by making a written report to both within forty-  
12 eight hours after such oral communication. A superintendent receiving a written report of bullying  
13 pursuant to this subsection shall immediately report such activity to the juvenile unit of the local police

14 department upon completion of the investigation required by the plan adopted pursuant to this  
15 subsection if said investigation finds reasonable cause to believe that a child is perpetrating or suffering  
16 from bullying. Any person required by this subsection to make a report who fails to do so shall be  
17 punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

18

19 In addition to those persons required to report pursuant to this subsection, any other person may make  
20 such a report if any such person has reasonable cause to believe that a child is perpetrating or suffering  
21 from bullying. No person so required to report shall be liable in any civil or criminal action by reason of  
22 such report. No person making such a report voluntarily shall be liable in any civil or criminal action by  
23 reason of such report if said report was made in good faith.

24

25 (b) In addition to any disciplinary measures contained in a bullying prevention and intervention plan  
26 adopted pursuant to this subsection, any student found to have engaged in bullying shall be required to  
27 attend counseling sessions established by school district in consultation with the department. If a  
28 student is found to have engaged in bullying on more than one occasion, that student's parents or  
29 guardians shall be required to attend said counseling sessions with said student.

30

31

32