

**SENATE . . . . . No. 282**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Anne M. Gobi*

*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 to promote a healthy culture and climate within schools.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 282**

---

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 282) of Anne M. Gobi and Steven S. Howitt for legislation to promote a healthy culture and climate within schools. Education.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to promote a healthy culture and climate within 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. Section 37 H <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Chapter 71, as so appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by striking out section (b) and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 section:-

4 (b) Any principal, headmaster, superintendent or person acting as a decision-maker at a  
5 student meeting or hearing, when deciding the consequences for the student, shall consider ways  
6 to re-engage the student in the learning process; and shall not suspend or expel a student until  
7 alternative remedies have been employed and their use and results documented, following and in  
8 direct response to a specific incident or incidents, unless specific reasons are documented as to  
9 why such alternative remedies are unsuitable or counter-productive, except, however, in cases  
10 where the student’s continued presence in school would pose a specific, documentable concern  
11 about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm upon another person while in  
12 school or has caused a significant disruption to the learning environment for other students.

13 Alternative remedies may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) mediation; (ii) conflict

14 resolution; (iii) restorative justice; and (iv) collaborative problem-solving. The principal,  
15 headmaster, superintendent or person acting as a decision-maker shall also implement school- or  
16 district-wide models to re-engage students in the learning process which shall include but not be  
17 limited to: (i) positive behavioral interventions and supports models and (ii) trauma-sensitive  
18 learning models; provided, however, that school- or district-wide models shall not be considered  
19 a direct response to a specific incident.