

HOUSE No. 00177

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice K. Wolf

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 respond to school exclusion data and reduce school dropouts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>David B. Sullivan</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Karen E. Spilka</i>	<i>Second Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>

HOUSE No. 00177

By Ms. Alice K. Wolf of Cambridge, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00177) of Kevin G. Honan and others relative to school exclusion data and school dropout reduction. Joint Committee on Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to respond to school exclusion data and reduce school dropouts.

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

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 37H ½ the
2 following section: -

3 Section 37H ¾. (1) Each superintendent of schools shall notify the commissioner of education
4 of all disciplinary exclusions of students from school, and shall report to the commissioner the
5 alternative education services provided to students. On or before September 1, the commissioner
6 shall file an annual report with the joint committee on education, arts and humanities, and with
7 the offices of the clerks for the house of representatives and the senate, concerning the number of
8 disciplinary exclusions in public schools, by grade level, race, gender, special education status,
9 socioeconomic status, and English language proficiency, the duration of exclusions, the reasons
10 for exclusions, the total number of school days in the school year students were excluded from
11 school, the alternative education options provided to students and the number of students re-

12 admitted under the provisions of this section. The department shall use its existing data
13 collection tools to obtain this expanded information from districts and shall modify those tools as
14 necessary to obtain the information. Each superintendent shall ensure that the annual reporting of
15 data on disciplinary exclusions is made on or before August 1 to the commissioner. To ensure
16 consistency with federal reporting requirements, annual reports from the superintendents and the
17 commissioner required by this subsection shall collect and report publicly the disaggregated
18 school discipline data at the state and district level for all students, including those not identified
19 as having a disability, by all categories currently required by 20 U.S.C. § 1418.

20 (2) The commissioner of education shall analyze the disciplinary exclusion data received from
21 the superintendents, and shall meet, at minimum, the federal requirements at 20 U.S.C.
22 §1412(a)(22). Pursuant to regulations to be promulgated by the department, for each school that
23 excludes a significant number of students for more than ten days cumulatively in a school year,
24 the commissioner shall investigate and, as appropriate, shall recommend models that incorporate
25 intermediary steps prior to the use of exclusion. The results of the analysis shall be publicly
26 reported at the school district level.