

HOUSE No. 497

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Higgins and Meghan Kilcoyne

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 the promotion of mental health education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Meghan Kilcoyne</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Ryan M. Hamilton</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>	<i>3/1/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 497

By Representatives Higgins of Leominster and Kilcoyne of Clinton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 497) of Natalie M. Higgins, Meghan Kilcoyne and others relative to the promotion of mental health education in public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the promotion of mental health education.

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 3 of Chapter 71 is hereby amended by striking the first sentence and
2 inserting in place the following:- “Physical and mental health education shall be taught as
3 required subjects in all grades for all students in the public schools for the purpose of promoting
4 the physical and mental well-being of such students. Mental health education programs shall
5 recognize multiple dimensions of health by including mental health, and the relationship of
6 physical health and mental health, so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes and
7 behaviors that promote health, well-being and human dignity.”

8 SECTION 2. Section 1 of Chapter 76 is hereby amended by striking the last sentence, in
9 the first paragraph, and inserting in place the following:- “For the purposes of this section, school
10 committees shall approve a private school when satisfied that the instruction in all the studies
11 required by law equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that in
12 the public schools in the same town, in addition to the incorporation of a mental health education

13 program into the curriculum in accordance with the provisions in section three of chapter
14 seventy-one; but shall not withhold such approval on account of religious teaching, and, in order
15 to protect children from the hazards of traffic and promote their safety, cities and towns may
16 appropriate money for conveying pupils to and from any schools approved under this section.”