

SENATE No. 1244

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Julian Cyr

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 building resiliency in communities through mental health.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Julian Cyr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Cape and Islands

SENATE No. 1244

By Mr. Cyr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1244) of Julian Cyr for legislation to build resiliency in communities through mental health. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act building resiliency in communities through mental health.

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. There shall be a mental health capacity grant program established within the
2 department of mental health for the purpose of addressing increased mental health needs in
3 nonprofit organizations at high risk of hate crimes, as defined in section 32 of chapter 22c of the
4 General Laws.

5 The program shall make grants available to nonprofit organizations at high risk of hate
6 crimes, as defined in section 32 of chapter 22c of the General Laws, to increase behavioral health
7 competency of staff who have frequent interactions with targeted communities and to expand
8 supportive programming to the same populations. The grants shall be used to support
9 programming determined by an organization’s specific needs to address mental health including
10 but not limited to (a) mental health first aid training, (b) culturally responsive referral programs,
11 (c) community education and destigmatization of mental health supports, (d) and any other
12 programming shown to effectively impact positive mental health.

13 Subject to appropriation, the department shall promulgate regulations to develop
14 provisions around grantmaking including that the grants shall be distributed in a geographically
15 equitable manner across the commonwealth and distributed in a manner that correlates with bias
16 types included in the preceding year's annual hate crime report by the Massachusetts Executive
17 Office of Public Safety and Security.

18 No later than 6 months from the distribution of the first grant, the commissioner shall file
19 a report with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on mental
20 health, substance use and recovery, the joint committee on racial equity, civil rights, and
21 inclusion, and the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing the grant program,
22 which shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of applications received; (ii) the number
23 of grants awarded; (iii) the dollar amount per grant; (iv) the organizational mission of each
24 grantee; and (v) the type of programming supported by each grant.