

SENATE No. 251

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 water bottle filling stations in public schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James B. Eldridge

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Middlesex and Worcester

SENATE No. 251

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 251) of James B. Eldridge for legislation relative to water bottle filling stations in public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to water bottle filling stations in public 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 94 of chapter 143 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding the following subsection:-

3 (t) to develop requirements and promulgate regulations for bottle filling stations in public
4 buildings; provided that the regulations shall include separate requirements for bottle filling
5 stations in public schools.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the
7 following section:-

8 Section 236: Safe drinking water for healthy students grant program

9 (a) There is hereby established a safe drinking water for healthy students grant program.
10 The program shall be administered by the department in consultation with the department of
11 early and secondary education. The program shall be used to discourage the consumption of
12 sugar sweetened beverages by increasing access to free potable drinking water for students in

13 public elementary and secondary schools. Grants shall be used to finance all or part of the costs
14 of purchasing and installing water bottle filling station equipment in a school building,
15 playground, or athletic field.

16 (b) Subject to appropriation, the program shall be funded at not less than \$2,000,000. The
17 department shall, in consultation with the department of early and secondary education, develop
18 criteria for providing funding and outcomes for specific projects. The criteria must include, but
19 are not limited to, the following:

20 (1) the maximum amount of the appropriation that any school district may receive;

21 (2) the minimum amount that any school is awarded shall be not less than \$500;

22 (3) any district or school may apply for grants to fund bottle filling stations that will be
23 installed in a school building, playground on a school property, or athletic field on a school
24 property;

25 (4) any school that applies for a grant shall test for lead and copper in the school's
26 drinking water, or provide proof of such testing conducted up to 5 years before the application
27 for a grant; provided that any school with elevated levels of lead or copper detected within 5
28 years of the grant application shall install a bottle filling station with a filtration system;

29 (5) applicants shall receive funds in the following order:

30 (i) Applicants with a high percentage of students who are eligible and enrolled in the free
31 and reduced-price meals program and with elevated levels of lead or copper in the school's
32 drinking water;

33 (ii) Applicants with a high percentage of students who are eligible and enrolled in the free
34 and reduced-price meals program and without elevated levels of lead or copper in the school's
35 drinking water;

36 (iii) Applicants with elevated levels of lead or copper in the school's drinking water who
37 do not have a high percentage of students who are eligible and enrolled in the free and reduced-
38 price meals program;

39 (iv) All other applicants.

40 (6) any district receiving funding provided in this section shall demonstrate a consistent
41 commitment to addressing school facilities' needs.

42 SECTION 3. Section 223 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
43 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words, in line 73, "at no cost to the
44 students;" the following:-

45 provided that the water may come from a public source and be made available for
46 consumption via a bottle filling station;