

**SENATE . . . . . No. 265**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Michael F. Rush*

*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 further define the term "bullying".

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Michael F. Rush*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Norfolk and Suffolk*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 265**

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By Mr. Rush, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 265) of Michael F. Rush for legislation to further define the term "bullying". Education.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
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An Act to further define the term "bullying".

*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 37O of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following:-

4 "Bullying", the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic  
5 expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim because  
6 of gender, race, age, religion, sexual orientation, physical appearance, physical or cognitive  
7 abilities, physical or mental disabilities, education level, socioeconomic factors, illnesses, ethnic  
8 or cultural background, or any other characteristic that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to  
9 the victim or damage to the victim's property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to  
10 himself or of damage to his property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim;  
11 (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the  
12 education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of this section, bullying  
13 shall include cyber-bullying.