

HOUSE No. 388

By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis and Walter F. Timilty relative to dress codes in public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO DRESS CODES 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. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the
2 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking Section 83 and
3 inserting in place thereof the following section:—

4 Section 83. School officials shall not abridge the rights of stu-
5 dents as to personal dress and appearance except if such officials:—

6 a) determine that such personal dress and appearance violate rea-
7 sonable standards of health, safety and cleanliness or

8 b) are acting in accordance with a code of personal dress and
9 appearance as authorized by the school committee of each city,
10 town, or regional school district after reasonable consultation with
11 the school councils of each city, town or regional school district; and

12 c) only if said standards or code of personal dress and appearance
13 are defined and included in the official student handbook, or are dis-
14 tributed to each student and his parent or guardian at the start of each
15 school year, or upon enrollment, whichever occurs first.

1 SECTION 2. Section 86 of Chapter 71, as appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is amended by striking out the text in its entirety
3 and inserting in place thereof the following:—

4 The provision of sections 83 to 85 shall apply only to municipal,
5 vocational and regional school districts that accept the same by a
6 majority vote of the school committee, or in the case of a charter
7 school, by the board of trustees.