

HOUSE No. 511

By Mr. Patrick of Falmouth, petition of Matthew C. Patrick and others for legislation to establish social and emotional development policies in school districts. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Matthew C. Patrick
John P. Fresolo
Kay Khan

Barbara A. L'Italien
Douglas W. Petersen

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

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. The board of education shall develop and imple-
2 ment a plan to incorporate social and emotional development stan-
3 dards as part of the learning standards for the purpose of enhancing
4 and measuring children's school readiness and ability to achieve aca-
5 demic success. The plan shall be submitted to the governor and the
6 general court on or before December 1, 2008.

1 SECTION 2. Each school district of the commonwealth shall
2 develop a policy for incorporating social and emotional development
3 into the district's educational program. The policy shall address
4 teaching and assessing social and emotional skills and protocols for
5 responding to children with social, emotional, or mental health prob-
6 lems, or a combination of such problems, that impact learning
7 ability. Each district shall submit its policy to the board of education
8 on or before August 31, 2008.