

SENATE No. 248

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas M. McGee

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 improve quality physical education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Thomas M. McGee	Third Essex and Middlesex
Danielle W. Gregoire	4th Middlesex
William C. Galvin	6th Norfolk
John A. Hart, Jr.	First Suffolk
James E. Timilty	Bristol and Norfolk
Louis L. Kafka	8th Norfolk
Susan C. Tucker	Second Essex and Middlesex
Anthony D. Galluccio	Middlesex, Suffolk and Essex
Katherine Clark	32nd Middlesex
Gale D. Candaras	First Hampden and Hampshire

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00334 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO IMPROVE QUALITY PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

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. Whereas physical inactivity and poor nutrition are major contributors to the
2 childhood obesity epidemic causing the current generation of youth to have a lower life
3 expectancy than their parents generation;

4 Whereas childhood obesity has increased 300 percent over the last three decades leading to a
5 dramatic increase in the incidence of heart disease, type II diabetes, and other obesity related
6 diseases among today's children and adolescents;

7 Whereas the economic impact of obesity on our health care system is estimated at \$129 billion
8 per year and physical activity offers young people many overall health benefits including
9 cardiovascular endurance and maintenance of a healthy weight;

10 Whereas children who become competent in a wide variety of motor skills are more apt to
11 participate in a physically active lifestyle,

12 Physical Education shall be a required subject in grades K-12. Physical Education shall be not
13 less than 150 minutes per week at the elementary level and 225 minutes per week in middle and
14 high school levels. There shall be no substitution of other instruction or activities for Physical
15 Education.

16 Coursework shall be regulated under the National Association for Sport & Physical Education
17 (NASPE) national standards for Physical Education including program and student
18 assessment. All courses shall be taught by certified Physical Education teachers.