

SENATE No. 1876

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, May 7, 1986.

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 222) of Kathleen Kelley and Salvatore R. Albano for legislation to require school committees to promulgate certain rules and regulations regarding the conduct of students; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1808) of Edward Crowley for legislation to require superintendents of schools to report monthly the number of students over sixteen years of age who have left the school system; and the petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 3504) of Kevin W. Fitzgerald and other members of the General Court for an investigation and study by the Department of Education relative to the drop-out rate of Hispanic students, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1876).

For the committee,

GERARD D'AMICO.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six.

AN ACT PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 15 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 at the end thereof the following:

3 Section 61. The board of education shall establish an alternative
4 education discretionary grant program. The board may make
5 grant awards to school districts with high concentrations of
6 violence absenteeism, truancy, drop-outs, suspensions and
7 expulsions, and other anti-social behavior, as determined by the
8 board. The board shall primarily use the dropout, truancy,
9 exclusion, expulsion, and in-school and out-of-school suspension
10 data gathered by the department under Section 49 of Chapter 15
11 of the General Laws in determining recipients of alternative
12 education grants under this section.

13 The purpose of said alternative education grants is to develop
14 alternative education programs and means to reduce the amount
15 of time off task required in dealing with behavior problems, build
16 a general school climate characterized by positive reinforcement,
17 and increase student achievement.

18 Alternative education programs may provide in-school and out-
19 of-school services and include, but not be limited to, support
20 services including counselors and social workers, remedial
21 specialists and curriculum development specialists, smaller and
22 integrated learning settings, better coordination between school
23 officials and police, restructuring and reorganizing school
24 programs at the local school level to allow for student
25 development cooperative programs with local human services
26 agencies in providing needed services to students, and programs
27 to foster the participation of students and faculty in school
28 management, development of codes of conduct, programs in

29 classroom management and counseling, local planning to respond
30 to violent behavior, central listing of resources, preventive
31 approaches in drugs and law education, parent education and
32 involvement.

33 Said board shall solicit proposals for alternative education
34 programs. Applications shall include: a statement of need, of how
35 funds will be targeted to students in need of alternative education,
36 and of how local efforts will be evaluated, as well as other criteria
37 determined by the board. Priority shall be given to collaborative
38 approaches either by educational collaboratives established under
39 Section 4E of Chapter 40 of the General Laws or other joint
40 agreements among school districts, cooperative programs with
41 local human service agencies and linkages with Essential Skills
42 grant programs provided by section 52 of this chapter.

43 The board shall evaluate proposals and provide technical
44 assistance. Programs and services provided under this section
45 shall supplement existing or current programs.

