

SENATE No. 237

By Mr. Magnani, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 237) of David P. Magnani, Pamela P. Resor, Daniel J. Valianti and James P. Jajuga for legislation to provide for school-based community service opportunities. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SCHOOL-BASED COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES.

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
2 the 1986 Official Edition is hereby amended by adding the new
3 section, Section 2B, following Section 2A: —

4 Section 2B. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Com-
5 monwealth to encourage all school committees to adopt as an edu-
6 cational objective the promotion of school-based community ser-
7 vice as an integral part of the educational process and as a means
8 of fostering voluntarism, preparing students for future roles as
9 concerned members of society, providing occupational guidance,
10 broadening enthusiasm of active participation in academic pur-
11 suits, and curbing dropout rates.

12 In all public schools opportunities for school-based community
13 service for every student shall be encouraged. This opportunity
14 may be offered as a component of a classroom activity or a
15 course; as a co-curricular or extra-curricular; in conjuncture with
16 occupational guidance and placement programs; through coopera-
17 tive agreements and municipal or state agencies or independent
18 service organizations; or in any other way deemed appropriate by
19 district authorities. School committees may include participation
20 in a community service program among requirements for high
21 school graduation or may grant academic credit for participation
22 in such a program.

23 For the purpose of this act, the state Board of Education shall
24 develop guidelines defining what shall constitute school-based
25 community service, and shall offer recommendations to school
26 committees based upon such guidelines.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act shall take effect Septem-
2 ber 1, 1994.