

By Mrs. Harkins of Needham, petition of Lida E. Harkins and Barbara E. Gray 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-Five.

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 communities to adopt as an  
6 educational objective the promotion of school-based community  
7 service as an integral part of the educational process and as a  
8 means of fostering voluntarism, preparing students for future roles  
9 as concerned members of society, providing occupational guid-  
10 ance, broadening enthusiasm for active participation in academic  
11 pursuits, 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 activity; in conjunc-  
16 tion with occupational guidance and placement programs; through  
17 cooperative agreements with municipal or state agencies or inde-  
18 pendent service organizations; or in any other way deemed appro-  
19 priate by district authorities. School committees may include  
20 participation in a community service program among require-  
21 ments for high school graduation or may grant academic credit for  
22 participation 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 Sep-  
2 tember 1, 1989.