

HOUSE No. 4651

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 2, 1995.

The committee on Education, Arts and Humanities, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2151) of Pamela P. Resor for legislation to prohibit the use of academic punishment in the public schools, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4651) ought to pass.

For the committee,

HAROLD M. LANE, JR.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Five.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF ACADEMIC PUNISHMENT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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 37H of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 1990 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the
3 second paragraph, the following paragraph:—

4 The authority of the school committee and its agents and
5 employees to regulate the conduct of students and to set educational
6 standards and issue grades for courses taken by students shall
7 include the authority to impose academic punishment as long as
8 there is an appeal provision. The school committee of each munici-
9 pality shall set forth the terms of the appeal provision. For the pur-
10 poses of this section, “academic punishment” is defined as the
11 policy or practice of withholding course credit or reducing a stu-
12 dents’ course grade solely based on the student’s absence from
13 school or from class.