

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 367) of Bruce E. Tarr, Brian P. Lees, Richard R. Tisei, Michael R. Knapik and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote tolerance and reduce violence in schools. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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AN ACT TO PROMOTE TOLERANCE AND REDUCE VIOLENCE IN 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 Chapter 71, Section 37H of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after the second paragraph thereof the  
3 following paragraphs:—

4 “The Department of Education shall develop guidelines for the  
5 development of policies regarding acts by students motivated by  
6 hatred or intolerance in such cases where these acts violate the  
7 provisions of law and in those cases where they do not violate the  
8 provisions of any particular law but nonetheless have the potential  
9 to negatively impact the learning environment. Said guidelines  
10 shall be developed in consultation with the Massachusetts Com-  
11 mission Against Discrimination, the Massachusetts Association of  
12 School Superintendents, the Massachusetts Principal’s Associa-  
13 tion, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, the  
14 Attorney General of the Commonwealth and the Massachusetts  
15 Association of Chiefs of Police. Said guidelines shall provide the  
16 basis for preventing and eliminating any such acts of hatred or  
17 intolerance and for appropriate action in response to any such acts  
18 by a particular school. Such guidelines shall be promulgated to  
19 all school districts in the Commonwealth not later than 18 months  
20 following the passage of this Act.

21 Each school district shall adopt a policy based on the guidelines  
22 prescribed above for the prevention of and response to acts of  
23 hatred or intolerance. Said policy shall be in writing, formally

24 adopted and updated as necessary as a school district policy, may  
25 be varied according to grade level or grade level groupings, and  
26 shall be included in the student handbook required by the  
27 following paragraph”.