

An Act Relative to SAFER SCHOOLS

MHLAC

HD. 4297 (Rep. Sabadosa) / S. 387 (Sen. Kennedy)

An Act Relative to Safer Schools would provide support for districts that want to develop more holistic safety practices that do not rely on school-based policing and clarify the parameters for appropriate use of police powers in schools.

WHAT WOULD THE BILL DO?

- Create grants for school safety models that do not rely school-based policing, like Oakland, CA, which hired “peacekeepers” with ties to students and the community, to help with arrival, dismissal, and transitions in the school day.
- Draw the line between student behavior which should be addressed by school officials and that which constitutes a criminal offense, codifying language developed by MA’s Model SRO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Commission.
- Align SROs’ interventions with “de-escalation and anti-bias” techniques they receive training in for POST certification.
- Collect better data on student-police interactions and require compliance with these reporting mandates as a prerequisite for the assignment of school resource officers.

WHY WE NEED THIS BILL:

Placing police in schools often devolves into using police as disciplinarians



Research shows that such reliance does NOT have a positive effect on school safety but rather increases court involvement for youth!

Schools and police are NOT complying with reforms



Few cities have adopted policing agreements required by law; FEWER schools report REQUIRED data on police in schools.

Schools want NEW models for safety and NEED SUPPORT in implementing them



Worcester removed police from school buildings; Somerville, Brookline, and Northampton eliminated SRO programs ENTIRELY.

**PLEASE SEND REQUESTS
VIA LAWS
TO CO-SPONSOR**

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WHY DO WE NEED THIS BILL?

Disrupt the School to Prison Pipeline and Help Our Students

BECAUSE A FIRST TIME ARREST **DOUBLES** THE CHANCES A STUDENT WILL DROP OUT

BECAUSE **BLACK AND LATINX STUDENTS** ARE **DISPROPORTIONATELY** MET WITH POLICE RESPONSES

BECAUSE **CHILDREN** AS YOUNG AS **12** ARE SUBJECT TO **ARREST** FOR SCHOOL BEHAVIORS

BECAUSE **YOUTH WITH BEHAVIORAL AND LEARNING DISABILITIES** ARE **DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED** BY **POLICING** PRACTICES IN MASSACHUSETTS

BECAUSE THERE ARE **SMARTER** WAYS TO KEEP SCHOOL SAFE

BECAUSE SCHOOLS SHOULD
FEEL SAFE, **NOT** POLICED

SUPPORT HD. 4297 (Rep. Sabadosa) / S. 387 (Sen. Kennedy)

An Act Relative to **SAFER SCHOOLS**