

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 990**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Bud Williams***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act decriminalizing non-violent and verbal student misconduct.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Bud Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Juana B. Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 990**

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By Mr. Williams of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 990) of Bud Williams and others for legislation to decriminalize certain non-violent demonstrations by students. The Judiciary.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1623 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act decriminalizing non-violent and verbal student misconduct.

*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 272 of the General Laws is amended by striking out section 40, as  
2 appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 section:

4 Section 40. Disturbance of assemblies.

5 Whoever wilfully interrupts or disturbs an assembly of people met for a lawful purpose  
6 shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one month or by a fine of not more than  
7 fifty dollars; provided, however, that K-12 students shall not be charged, adjudicated, or  
8 convicted for alleged violation of this provision due to conduct within school buildings or  
9 grounds or in the course of school-related events. Whoever, within one year after being twice

10 convicted of a violation of this section, again violates the provisions of this section shall be  
11 punished by imprisonment for one month, and the sentence imposing such imprisonment shall  
12 not be suspended.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 272 is hereby further amended by striking out subsection (b) of  
14 section 53, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the  
15 following

16 subsection:

17 (b) Disorderly persons and disturbers of the peace, for the first offense, shall be punished  
18 by a fine of not more than \$150. On a second or subsequent offense, such person shall be  
19 punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 6 months, or by a  
20 fine of not more than \$200, or by both such fine and imprisonment, provided, however, that an  
21 elementary or secondary school student shall not be charged, adjudicated, or convicted for  
22 alleged violation of this provision due to conduct within school buildings or grounds or in the  
23 course of school-related events.