

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 01914**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Robert F. Fennell***

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*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to dress codes in public schools

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Robert F. Fennell</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>
<i>Joyce A. Spiliotis</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 01914

By Mr. Fennell of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1914) of Walz and others relative to dress codes in public schools Joint Committee on Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 385 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act relative to dress codes in 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 1. Section 83 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “cleanliness” in line 4 the following  
3 words:  
4 Or b) are acting in accordance with a code of personal dress and appearance as authorized by the  
5 school committee of each city, town, or regional school district after due consideration and  
6 public hearing; and 1) only if said standards or code of personal dress and appearance are defined  
7 and included in the official student handbook, or are distributed to each student and his parent or  
8 guardian at the start of each school year, or upon enrollment, whichever occurs first; 2) only if  
9 school officials make available resources to assist economically disadvantaged students, herein

10 defined as those students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches under federal income  
11 eligibility guidelines, to purchase clothing that meets the standards or code of personal dress and  
12 appearance; 3) only if school officials shall afford parents or guardians the flexibility to exempt  
13 their children from compliance with the standards or code of personal dress and appearance; and  
14 4) only if this policy includes a provision that no student so exempted shall be penalized by  
15 reason of such exemption.

16 SECTION 2. Section 86 of chapter 71 is hereby amended by striking out the paragraph and  
17 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: — The provision of sections 83 to 85,  
18 inclusive, shall apply only to municipal, vocational and regional school districts that accept the  
19 same by a majority vote of the school committee, or in the case of a charter school, by the board  
20 of trustees.