

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 554

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Carol A. Doherty and Ryan M. Hamilton*

*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 establishing comprehensive school counseling programs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 554

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By Representatives Doherty of Taunton and Hamilton of Methuen, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 554) of Carol A. Doherty and James K. Hawkins for legislation to establish school counseling programs. Education.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing comprehensive school counseling programs.

*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 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition is hereby  
2 amended by inserting the following:-

3           “Each public school district shall develop and implement a comprehensive school  
4 counseling program that adheres to the Massachusetts Model for Comprehensive School  
5 Counseling Programs and ensures all pre-K to grade twelve (12) students will receive school  
6 counseling services from licensed school counselors. In accordance with the Model, each school  
7 counselor is to spend at least eighty percent (80%) of that school counselor’s time providing  
8 direct or indirect services to students. To maintain equity in student access to a school counselor,  
9 each district shall provide one (1) school counselor for a maximum of two hundred fifty (250)  
10 students, the nationally recommended average.”