

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 566**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Marjorie C. Decker*

*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 relative to recess for elementary school children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/10/2021</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/12/2021</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>2/15/2021</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>2/16/2021</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/20/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 566**

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By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 566) of Marjorie C. Decker and others relative to recess for elementary school children. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to recess for elementary school children.

*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 1G of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new paragraph:-

3           All children in grades kindergarten through five attending public schools shall receive  
4 supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess so that there are at least twenty consecutive  
5 minutes of free-play recess per day. As used herein, the term "free-play" means an unstructured  
6 environment, but which is supervised by appropriate school personnel or staff. Regulations  
7 promulgated by the department may not exclude recess from structured learning time  
8 requirements for elementary school children and may not increase the total number of hours  
9 required in the school year to meet the provisions of this subsection.

10           SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition,  
11 is hereby amended by inserting after section 4A the following new section:-

12           Section 4B. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no public  
13 elementary school shall decrease the amount of time it allots and provides to students as recess  
14 time designed to allow students to participate in physical and social activities as a result of any  
15 changes in standards or curriculum that the school is required to or chooses to adopt. For  
16 purposes of this section, “elementary school” shall mean a school providing instruction to grades  
17 K through 5, and, where so designated by a school committee prior to the commencement of a  
18 school year, may also include a middle school or other intermediate level school providing  
19 instruction to grades 5 through 6 or any combination thereof.