HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2040 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1914

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Robert F. Fennell

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:

An Act relative to dress codes in public schools.

PETITION OF:

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

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2040 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1914

By Mr. Fennell of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1914) of Robert F. Fennell, Joyce A. Spiliotis and Martha M. Walz relative to dress codes in public schools. Education.

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

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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:

SECTION 1. Section 83 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "cleanliness" in line 4 the following words:

Or b) are acting in accordance with a code of personal dress and appearance as authorized by the school committee of each city, town, or regional school district after due consideration and public hearing; and 1) only if said standards or code of personal dress and appearance are defined and included in the official student handbook, or are distributed to each student and his parent or guardian at the start of each school year, or upon enrollment, whichever occurs first; 2) only if school officials make available resources to assist economically disadvantaged students, herein defined as those students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches under federal income eligibility guidelines, to purchase clothing that meets the standards or code of personal dress and appearance; 3) only if school officials shall afford parents or guardians the flexibility to exempt their children from compliance with the standards or code of personal dress and appearance; and 4) only if this policy includes a provision that no student so exempted shall be penalized by reason of such exemption.

SECTION 2. Section 86 of chapter 71 is hereby amended by striking out the paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: — The provision of sections 83 to 85, 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.