SENATE DOCKET, NO. 574 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

SENATE . . . . . No. 260

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sal N. DiDomenico

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 enhancing the educational outcomes of expectant and parenting students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*	
Benjamin Swan	*11th Hampden*	
Linda Dorcena Forry	*First Suffolk*	
Barbara A. L'Italien	*Second Essex and Middlesex*	
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*	
Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.	*28th Middlesex*	
Marjorie C. Decker	*25th Middlesex*	
Thomas M. McGee	*Third Essex*	
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*	
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*	
Eileen M. Donoghue	*First Middlesex*	
Michael F. Rush	*Norfolk and Suffolk*	
Elizabeth A. Malia	*11th Suffolk*	
Thomas P. Kennedy	*Second Plymouth and Bristol*	*3/4/2015*
Patricia D. Jehlen	*Second Middlesex*	*10/15/2015*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 260

By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 260) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Benjamin Swan, Linda Dorcena Forry, Barbara L'Italien and other members of the General Court for legislation to enhance the educational outcomes of expectant and parenting students. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act enhancing the educational outcomes of expectant and parenting students.

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. Chapter 76 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 21 the following section:-

Section 22. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

"Department", the department of elementary and secondary education.

"Expectant student", a student who is pregnant or an expectant parent of a child.

"Parenting student", a student who is the parent of a child.

"Parenting student liaison", the position established under subsection (d).

"Title IX", Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.

10 “Title IX coordinator”, the school district employee designated under the requirements of
11 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq. and its implementing

12 (b) The department, after consultation with relevant state agencies and appropriate
13 community partners including the Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy shall: (i) publish to
14 its website a model expectant and parenting student policy and encourage all districts to develop
15 their own expectant and parenting students policies that align with this model; and (ii) compile
16 and post on its website a list of resources, best practices and research for schools to use to help
17 expectant and parenting students stay in school and to increase graduation rates for expectant and
18 parenting students. These materials shall be incorporated into the training of expectant and
19 parenting student liaisons, as described in subsection (d). The department shall update the model
20 plan and the list of resources, best practices and research at least every 3 years.

21 (c) A public school with students in grade 7 or higher in either (i) a municipality with an
22 annual birth rate to women ages 13 to 19 per 1,000 that is among the top 10 highest teen birth
23 rates in the state or (ii) a municipality with an annual total number of births to women ages 13 to
24 19, inclusive, greater than 150 shall qualify for an expectant and parenting student liaison
25 modeled after an evidence-based program at Chelsea High School. Each qualifying municipality
26 shall receive funding for the liaison model. The amount of this funding shall be determined by
27 the department. Districts shall determine which schools with grades 7 or higher shall liaisons.
28 The districts shall give preference to placing liaisons at schools with the highest percentages of
29 expectant and parenting students.Each school shall post on its website the name and contact
30 information of its expectant and parenting student liaison. The duties of the expectant and
31 parenting student liaison may be in addition to other duties the liaison may have.
32 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the expectant and parenting student

33 liaison shall have access to the school records necessary for the liaison to assist the expectant or
34 parenting student with the development of a plan for the student to graduate from high school.

35 The department of public health shall calculate the annual birth rate and annual total
36 number of births to women ages 13 to 19, inclusive, of each municipality. No later than April 1,
37 2016 the department of public health shall notify the department of its findings. No later than
38 May 1, 2016 the department shall notify those school districts whose annual birth rate or annual
39 total number of births to women ages 13 to 19, inclusive, require the designation of an expectant
40 and parenting student liaison in the upcoming school year.

41 Each expectant and parenting student liaison shall, in close consultation with an
42 expectant or parenting student, create an individualized plan for graduation that (i) is designed to
43 ensure the student meets graduation requirements, (ii) includes flexible class scheduling and
44 alternative credit accumulation options, as needed, and (iii) furthers the student's post-graduation
45 college or career goals. As needed, the plan shall also include a proposed end date for the
46 student's maternity or paternity leave of absence. The liaison shall present the advantages and
47 disadvantages of each education option available to the student, without coercing or steering the
48 student in any direction, and work with the student to determine which options best meet the
49 student's needs. If flexible class scheduling and alternative credit accumulation options are not
50 available in the student's school or district, the liaison shall work with the student to find such
51 options. With the consent of the student, the liaison shall make a reasonable attempt to engage a
52 family member in the development of the plan and any modifications to it. If such a family
53 member is not available or if the student does not consent to the involvement of a family
54 member, the liaison shall make a reasonable attempt to engage an adult outside of the student's

55 family in the development or modification of the plan, provided that the student consents to such
56 involvement.

57 The liaison shall review the plan with the student at designated points during the school
58 year and assess the student's progress toward each graduation requirement and post-graduation
59 goal. The liaison and student shall modify the plan from time to time as appropriate.

60 Before, during and after a student's maternity or paternity leave of absence, the liaison
61 shall attempt to connect a student with academic and social-emotional supports within and
62 outside of the school, including but not limited to child care, health care, transportation, flexible
63 scheduling, alternative credit accumulation options, and parenting and life skills classes. The
64 liaison shall follow up with the student to ensure he or she has obtained needed supports and
65 shall, where necessary, work in partnership with community-based organizations to assist and
66 advocate for the student in obtaining support services. The expectant and parenting student
67 liaison shall inform each expectant and parenting student of the student's rights under Title IX.

68 Each school district shall ensure that each expectant and parenting student liaison
69 receives training in the needs and rights of expectant and parenting students. This training shall
70 include but not be limited to the rights of expectant and parenting students under federal law,
71 information on graduation requirements, flexible scheduling options, alternative education
72 options, community resources for expectant and parenting teens, and the importance of
73 encouragement and support of their educational success.

74 (e) In all schools with grades 7 or higher, the expectant and parenting student liaison or
75 Title IX coordinator shall annually report to the superintendent the known number of parenting
76 students in the school, a summary of the academic achievement of these students, the number

77 who graduate from high school, the number who drop out of school, and the number who enroll
78 in post-secondary educational programs. Each superintendent shall annually report this data for
79 the school district to the department. The department shall use its existing data collection tools to
80 obtain this information from districts and shall modify those tools, as necessary, to obtain the
81 information. The department shall post on its website aggregate statewide data and shall make
82 district level data available upon request except for data from districts that report fewer than 5
83 parenting students.

84 (f) School staff may encourage but shall not force or coerce an expectant or parenting
85 student to inform his or her parents or guardians of the student's pregnant or parenting status.

86 (g) Nothing in this section shall supersede or replace rights or remedies under any other
87 general or special law, nor shall this section create a private right of action.

88 SECTION 2. Each public school with students in grade 7 or higher that is required to
89 have an expectant and parenting student liaison shall identify and train a liaison, as defined under
90 section 22 of chapter 76, no later than September 1, 2017. No later than September 1, 2017, each
91 public school with students in grade 7 or higher shall have and shall file with the department of
92 elementary and secondary education an expectant and parenting student policy. No later than
93 September 1, 2017, the department of elementary and secondary education shall specify a
94 method for districts and schools to report the information required by subsection (e) of section 22
95 of chapter 76.