

HOUSE No. 366

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act establishing local school health advisory councils..

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. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 54B the following section:-

3 Section 54C. The school committee of each school district shall establish a local
4 school health education advisory council to assist the district in ensuring that local community
5 values are reflected in the district’s health education instruction and wellness programs.

6 A school district must consider the recommendations of the local school health education
7 advisory council before changing the district’s health education curriculum or instruction.

8 The local school health advisory council’s duties include recommending:- (a) the number
9 of hours of instruction to be provided in health education;(b) health education curriculum
10 appropriate for specific grade levels that shall incorporate the Massachusetts Comprehensive
11 Health Curriculum Framework and that may include a coordinated health education program
12 consistent with guidelines based on the American School Health Association’s Comprehensive
13 School Health Program and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention coordinated school

14 health program designed to prevent obesity, cardiovascular disease, and Type II diabetes through
15 coordination of the following nine elements:

- 16 (i) health services;
- 17 (ii) health education;
- 18 (iii) school nutrition services;
- 19 (iv) physical education;
- 20 (v) healthy school environment;
- 21 (vi) school counseling;
- 22 (vii) school psychological and social services;
- 23 (viii) staff health and wellness; and
- 24 (ix) family and community involvement.

25 The school committee shall appoint members to the local school health advisory
26 council. A majority of the members must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the
27 district and who are not employed by the district. The board of trustees also may appoint one or
28 more persons from each of the following groups or a representative from a group other than a
29 group specified under this subsection: public school teachers, public school administrators,
30 students, licensed health care professionals, the business community, law enforcement, senior
31 citizens, the clergy and nonprofit organizations.

32 The department of education shall monitor and act as a clearing house for the activities
33 of the local school health advisory councils.

34 The department shall also notify each school district of the availability of professional
35 development opportunities on school health issues.

36 Each local school district shall develop an action plan prepared in collaboration with
37 the local school health advisory council to assist in implementation of health education and
38 wellness policies. The action plan shall identify steps that need to be taken each year to fully
39 implement the policy and shall include a review and appropriate modification of existing
40 physical education and health curricula.

41 SECTION 2. The department of education shall conduct a cost analysis study under
42 the direction of the commissioner and the advisory board established pursuant to section 12 of
43 chapter 6 to identify the annual costs associated with continuously funding comprehensive health
44 education resources to be used by local health advisory councils to assist in meeting district
45 health education action plans, goals and objectives. The study shall be completed and reported
46 to the general court and the governor by April, 2008.

47 The department shall also notify each school district of the availability of professional
48 development opportunities and resources in school health education issues.