

SENATE No. 2047

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act relative to healthy kids..

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 striking out section
2 3, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following
3 sections:-

4 Section 3. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
5 meanings:-

6 “Age-appropriate”, topics, messages and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or
7 age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional and behavioral
8 capacity typical for the age or age group.

9 “Board”, the board of elementary and secondary education.

10 “Department”, the department of elementary and secondary education.

11 (b) Physical education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students in
12 public schools or commonwealth charter schools to promote the physical well-being of the
13 students. Physical education shall be age-appropriate and evidence-based and shall include, but
14 not be limited to, physical activity and fitness and nutrition and wellness. Physical education
15 shall include a focus on physical competence, health-related fitness and enjoyment of physical
16 activity so as to benefit children physically, cognitively, emotionally and socially. A pupil shall
17 not be required to take part in physical education exercises if a licensed physician certifies in
18 writing that in the physician’s opinion the physical education exercises would be injurious to the
19 pupil. The board may promulgate regulations necessary to facilitate this section.

20 Section 3A. (a) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education, in conjunction
21 with the commissioner of public health, shall conduct an evaluation of current physical education

standards, practices and the instruction provided to students in grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) current school district practices concerning physical education in public schools, including physical education course offerings, class duration and frequency and the physical space and time allotted, if any, for public school students to participate in recess each week; and

(2) the appropriate levels of physical education and activity for all children of the commonwealth.

(b) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall report the results of the evaluation by filing the report with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward copies of the report to the chairs of the joint committee on education and the joint committee on public health not later than April 1, 2015. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall make appropriate recommendations based on the findings in alignment with the commission on school nutrition and childhood obesity established under section 7 of chapter 197 of the acts of 2010.

SECTION 2. Section 1 shall take effect for the 2015-2016 school year.