

SENATE No. 2465

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, Wednesday, July 27, 2016

The committee on Ways and Means to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 679) Michael O. Moore, Linda Dorcena Forry, Tom Sannicandro, Daniel M. Donahue and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to sexual violence on higher education campuses,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2465).
[Estimated cost:\$1,000,000]

For the committee,
Karen E. Spilka

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An Act concerning sexual violence on higher education campuses.

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 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 168D. Each public or private degree-granting post-secondary institution of
4 higher education shall adopt a policy on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and
5 stalking that shall be made available, upon request, to an applicant, student or employee of the
6 institution. The policy shall include, but not limited to:

7 (i) the procedures by which students and employees at the institution may report
8 or disclose incidents of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking regardless
9 of where the offense occurred;

10 (ii) information on where to receive immediate emergency assistance following an
11 incident of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, which shall include,
12 but not be limited to, contact information for seeking medical treatment on-campus, if available,
13 and off-campus and information related to preserving evidence based on the type of offense;

14 (iii) descriptions of the types of counseling, health, safety, academic and other
15 support services available from the institution, within the local community or region or through a
16 local community-based rape crisis center or domestic violence program, including contact
17 information;

18 (iv) the rights of students and employees to: (A) notify law enforcement,
19 including on-campus, local and state police, of an alleged incident of dating violence, domestic
20 violence, sexual assault or stalking ; (B) receive assistance from campus authorities in making
21 any notification or to decline to notify these authorities; and (C) obtain a protective order, apply
22 for a temporary restraining order or seek enforcement of an existing protective or restraining
23 order against a perpetrator of the assault, stalking or violence;

24 (v) interim protective measures reasonably available to the reporting party from
25 the institution including, but not limited to, options for changing academic, living, campus
26 transportation or working arrangements in response to an alleged incident of dating violence,
27 domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking and how to request such changes;

28 (vi) the responsibilities of the institution upon receipt of notification that a
29 protective or temporary restraining order has been issued under state law;

30 (vii) a summary of the institution's procedures for resolving complaints against
31 students alleged to have engaged in dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or
32 stalking, including clear statements advising students that: (A) an investigation, including any
33 hearing and resulting disciplinary proceeding, shall be conducted by an official who receives not
34 less than annual training on issues relating to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault
35 or stalking, investigatory procedures and hearing procedures to protect the safety and rights of

36 students and promote accountability; (B) the reporting party of an alleged incident of dating
37 violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking and the accused party may be
38 accompanied by an advisor or support person of their choice to meet with the institution's
39 investigator or other fact-finder and may consult with an advisor or support person during a
40 meeting, including any disciplinary proceeding; provided, however, that the institution may
41 establish rules regarding how the proceeding will be conducted which may include guidelines on
42 the extent to which the advisor or support person for each party may participate in the meeting or
43 disciplinary proceeding and any limitations on participation which shall apply equally to both
44 parties; provided further, that the institution shall adopt reasonable measures to provide for the
45 involvement of the advisor or support person for each party; and provided further, that the
46 availability of the advisor or support person shall not significantly delay a meeting or
47 disciplinary proceeding; (C) the reporting party and the accused shall be provided the
48 institution's policies regarding the submission and consideration of categories of evidence that
49 may be used during a disciplinary proceeding and shall have equal opportunity to present
50 evidence and witnesses on their behalf during a disciplinary proceedings and shall be provided
51 with timely and equal access to information or relevant evidence that shall be used in the
52 determination of a discipline; (D) there may be restrictions on evidence considered by the fact
53 finder including, but not limited to, the use of evidence of prior sexual activity of character
54 witnesses; (E) investigators and other officials from the institution conducting the disciplinary
55 proceeding shall not have a conflict of interest; (F) the reporting party and the accused shall be
56 informed in writing of the results of a disciplinary proceeding not later than 7 business days after
57 a final determination of a complaint, not including any time for appeal, unless good cause for
58 additional time is shown, and any process for appealing the decision; and (G) the institution shall

59 not disclose the identity of the reporting party or the accused, except as necessary to carry out a
60 disciplinary process or as permitted under state or federal law;

61 (viii) a summary of the institution's employee disciplinary process; and

62 (ix) the range of sanctions or penalties the institution may impose on students and
63 employees found responsible for a violation of the applicable institutional policy prohibiting acts
64 of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

65 The terms “dating violence”, “domestic violence”, “sexual assault” and “stalking” shall
66 be defined by each institution of higher education in its applicable policies, including its policy
67 on affirmative action or code of conduct, consistent with applicable federal definitions.

68 SECTION 2. Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
69 following section:-

70 Section 45. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
71 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

72 “Awareness programming
73 , institution wide or audience specific programs, initiatives, and strategies that increase audience
74 knowledge, share resources to prevent and reduce the occurrence of dating violence, domestic
75 violence, sexual assault and stalking and promote safety.

76 “Bystander intervention”, bystander intervention as defined in 34 CFR 668.46.

77 “Primary prevention programming”, initiatives and strategies informed by research or
78 assessed for value, effectiveness or outcome that are intended to stop dating violence, domestic
79 violence, sexual assault and stalking through the promotion of positive healthy behavior.

80 “Responsible employee”, an employee who has the authority to take action to redress
81 sexual violence, who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual violence or any
82 other misconduct by students to the Title IX coordinator or other appropriate school designee.

83 “Trauma-informed response”, a response involving an understanding of the complexities
84 of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking through training centered on
85 the neurobiological impact of trauma, the influence of societal myths and stereotypes
86 surrounding the causes and impacts of trauma, understanding the behavior of perpetrators and
87 conducting an effective investigation on behalf of the reporting party who suffered the trauma.

88 (b) All policies adopted by an institution of higher education under this section shall
89 comply with Title IX of the federal Higher Education Amendments of 1972, Title IV of the Civil
90 Rights Act of 1964, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Jeanne Clery
91 Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, and related regulations
92 and guidance, concerning dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking
93 involving a student of the institution, both on-campus and off-campus.

94 The policies shall be developed in coordination with the institution’s Title IX coordinator
95 and reflect input from various internal and external entities including, but not limited to:
96 institutional administrators; personnel affiliated with on-campus and off-campus health care
97 centers; personnel affiliated with on-campus, when available, and local, community-based rape
98 crisis centers and domestic violence programs; confidential resources; residence life; students;
99 the state and local police department where the institution’s primary campus is located and the
100 district attorney having jurisdiction. A reasonable period of time for review and comment on the
101 policies shall be provided to the internal and external entities. Following an institution’s adoption

102 of the policies required by this section, the opportunity for review and comment by internal and
103 external entities shall only apply to substantive changes in such policies.

104 (c) Each institution of higher education shall: (i) adopt detailed and trauma-informed
105 policies and protocols regarding dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking
106 involving students and employees of the institution that comport with the best practices and
107 current professional standards and establish procedures for regularly reviewing and updating the
108 policies; and (ii) apply the same policies relating to claims of dating violence, domestic violence,
109 sexual assault and stalking to all students.

110 (d) Each institution of higher education shall adopt policies clearly delineating the
111 responsibilities and requirements for sharing information with law enforcement, in accordance
112 with applicable federal and state confidentiality laws, related to serious crimes and incidents that
113 shall include, but not be limited to, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and
114 stalking occurring against students and employees of the institution. The policies shall include,
115 but not be limited to: the training for the campus police; methods for sharing information and the
116 referral of a complaint for an investigation by law enforcement and public safety agencies, if
117 directed by the reporting party; the method of sharing crime details anonymously in order to
118 better protect overall campus safety; and methods for notifying the district attorney's office
119 having jurisdiction where the alleged offense occurred.

120 (e) The commissioner shall appoint within the department of higher education a campus
121 safety advisor with experience in public safety policy, who shall facilitate and advance statewide
122 campus safety at public and private institutions of higher education. The officer shall coordinate,
123 aggregate and disseminate best practices, training opportunities and other resources to further the
124 goal of enhanced campus safety at an institution of higher education. The board of higher

125 education shall promulgate regulations to establish and implement the role and responsibilities of
126 the campus safety advisor including, but not limited to, establishing minimum standards for
127 campus security and safety issues.

128 (f) An institution of higher education shall make publicly available on its website the
129 following information: (i) the total number of allegations of dating violence, domestic violence,
130 sexual assault and stalking made by a student or employee of the institution against another
131 student or employee of the institution and the institution shall update the information not less
132 than every 6 months; (ii) the telephone number and website for a local, state or national 24-hour
133 hotline providing information to a reporting party of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual
134 assault or stalking; (iii) the name and contact information for the institution's Title IX
135 coordinator; (iv) the name and contact information for a confidential resource advisor and a
136 description of the role of and services provided by the confidential resource advisor, which shall
137 be updated on a timely basis; and (v) the name and location of the nearest medical facility where
138 an individual may request a rape kit be administered by a trained sexual violence forensic health
139 care provider, including information on transportation options and reimbursement for travel
140 costs, if any.

141 (g) Each institution of higher education shall annually, by October 1, transmit to students
142 via electronic mail its policies and procedures concerning the reporting and investigation of an
143 allegation of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking made by a student or
144 employee of the institution against another student or employee of the institution in accordance
145 with section 168D of chapter 6.

146 (h) Upon receiving a report of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or
147 stalking, each institution of higher education shall provide an objectively clear and easily

148 understood notification of the reporting and accused party's rights and options under the
149 institution's dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking policies to the
150 reporting party and the accused party, when feasible.

151 (i) An institution of higher education shall enter into and maintain a memorandum of
152 understanding with at least 1 community-based department of public health funded sexual assault
153 crisis service center and at least 1 community-based domestic violence agency to: (i) provide an
154 off-campus alternative for a reporting party to receive sexual assault crisis services in response to
155 dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking; (ii) ensure that a student or
156 employee of the institution may access free and confidential counseling and advocacy services,
157 either on-campus or off-campus, after disclosing that they are the reporting party of dating
158 violence, domestic violence, a sexual assault or stalking; and (iii) encourage cooperation and
159 trainings between the institution and the service center or agency to ensure an understanding the
160 roles that the institution, service center and agency should play in responding to reports and
161 disclosures of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking against students and
162 employees of the institution and the institution's protocols for providing support and services to
163 such students and employees.

164 The memorandum of understanding may include an agreement, including a fee structure,
165 for the sexual assault crisis service center or domestic violence agency to provide confidential
166 victim services. Confidential victim services may include: case consultation and training fees for
167 confidential resource advisors; consultation fees for the development and implementation of
168 student education and prevention programs; the development of staff training and prevention
169 curriculum; and confidential on-site office space for an advocate from a sexual assault crisis
170 service center or domestic violence agency to meet with a reporting party.

171 The department of higher education may grant a waiver of this requirement to an
172 institution that demonstrates that the institution acted in good faith but was unable to obtain a
173 signed memorandum.

174 (j) Each institution of higher education shall provide a method for anonymously reporting
175 an incident of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking that involves a
176 student or employee of the institution. An institution shall ensure that students and employees are
177 aware of the institution's obligations under state or federal law to: (i) investigate or address, to
178 the extent possible, the alleged dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking,
179 including when the alleged act was reported anonymously; (ii) assess whether the report triggers
180 the need for a timely warning or emergency notification under 34 CFR 668.46(e), the obligations
181 of which may, in limited circumstances, result in the release of the reporting party's identity; and
182 (iii) disclose the identity of a reporting party to another student, an employee or a third party.

183 (k) A reporting party or witness to an investigation of dating violence, domestic
184 violence, sexual assault or stalking shall not be subject to a disciplinary sanction for a violation
185 of the institution's student conduct policy related to the incident unless the institution determines
186 that the report was not made in good faith or that the violation was egregious. An egregious
187 violation shall include, but shall not be limited to, an action that places the health and safety of
188 another person at risk.

189 (l) Each institution of higher education shall establish a campus security policy that
190 includes the designation of at least 1 confidential resource advisor at the institution to whom a
191 party reporting dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking can report
192 anonymously or directly. The confidential resource advisor may have another role at the
193 institution; provided, however, that the confidential resource advisor shall not be an employee

194 designated as a responsible employee, as defined in subsection (a), a student or a Title IX
195 coordinator.

196 The institution shall designate existing categories of employees that may serve as
197 confidential resource advisors. The designation of an existing category of employees shall not
198 preclude the institution from designating a new or existing employee or partnering with a local,
199 state or national victim services organization to serve as a confidential resource advisor or to
200 serve in another confidential role. An institution may partner with an outside victim advocacy
201 organization to provide a confidential resource advisor under this section. An institution that
202 enrolls fewer than 1,000 students may partner with another institution in the region or within the
203 state to provide the services under this section.

204 The role of the confidential resource advisor shall be to serve as a liaison for a reporting
205 party. If requested by the reporting party, the confidential resource advisor shall provide
206 information on: (i) reporting options and the effects of each option; (ii) counseling services
207 available through a local, community-based rape crisis center or domestic violence program;
208 (iii) administrative, medical and health services available on-campus and off-campus; (iv)
209 available academic accommodations; (v) the disciplinary process of the institution; and (vi) the
210 legal process carried out through local law enforcement. The confidential resource advisor shall
211 receive training in the awareness and prevention of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual
212 assault and stalking and in trauma-informed response and coordinate with on-campus and off-
213 campus sexual assault crisis services and, if directed by the reporting party, campus or local law
214 enforcement and may, as appropriate, assist the reporting party in contacting or reporting to
215 campus or local law enforcement. The confidential resource advisor shall coordinate with the
216 institution to arrange interim protective measures to allow the reporting party to change

217 academic, living, campus transportation or working arrangements in response to the alleged
218 assault, stalking or violence.

219 The confidential resource advisor shall also advise the reporting party of the parties'
220 rights and the institution's responsibilities regarding a protection order, no contact order,
221 restraining order and other lawful orders issued by the institution or a criminal, civil or tribal
222 court.

223 The confidential resource advisor shall not be required to report an incident to the
224 institution or law enforcement unless otherwise required to do so by state and federal law and
225 shall provide confidential services to students and employees. A request for a possible interim
226 protective measure to change an academic, living, campus transportation or working situation in
227 response to alleged dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking made by a
228 confidential resource advisor shall not constitute notice to a responsible employee for Title IX
229 purposes.

230 The website of the institution shall list: reporting options for a reporting party; the
231 process of investigation and adjudication by the institution; and the process for requesting a
232 possible interim protective measure, when reasonable and available, to change an academic,
233 living, campus transportation or working situation in response to alleged dating violence,
234 domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

235 If a conflict of interest arises for an institution in which a confidential resource advisor is
236 advocating for the reporting party's need for sexual assault crisis services or campus or law
237 enforcement services, the institution shall not discipline, penalize or otherwise retaliate against
238 the confidential resource advisor for representing the interest of the reporting party.

239 A confidential resource advisor may attend an administrative or institution-based
240 adjudication proceeding related to such elderly and disabled consumers as the advisor or support
241 person of the reporting party's choice.

242 Unless otherwise required by federal or state law, a confidential resource advisor shall
243 not disclose a confidential communication without the prior written consent of the reporting
244 party; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to limit a defendant's
245 right of cross examination of the advisor in a civil or criminal proceeding if the advisor testifies
246 after written consent has been given. A confidential communication shall not be subject to
247 discovery and shall be inadmissible in a criminal or civil proceeding without the prior written
248 consent of the reporting party. Information provided to the confidential resource advisor shall not
249 be released to a campus official or law enforcement unless written consent is given by the
250 reporting party. A confidential resource advisor shall not act as a counselor or therapist unless
251 the confidential resource advisor holds a valid license under chapter 112 and the reporting party
252 engages the confidential resource advisor in that capacity. The privileges available under chapter
253 233 shall apply.

254 (m) Each institution of higher education shall provide: (i) mandatory annual dating
255 violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking primary prevention and awareness
256 programming for newly enrolled students and newly hired employees of the institution that
257 includes: (A) an explanation of consent in a sexual relationship; (B) the role drugs and alcohol
258 play in an individual's ability to consent; (C) information on options relating to the reporting of
259 an instance of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, the effects of each
260 option and methods to report an incident of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assaults or
261 stalking, including confidential and anonymous disclosure; (D) the name, contact information

262 and role of the confidential resource advisor; and (E) strategies for bystander intervention and
263 risk reduction; and (ii) opportunities for ongoing dating violence, domestic violence, sexual
264 assault and stalking prevention and awareness campaigns and programming.

265 (n) Notice to a confidential resource advisor of an alleged act of sexual assault, domestic
266 violence, dating violence or stalking or a confidential resource advisor's performance of a
267 service under this section shall not be considered actual or constructive notice of such an alleged
268 act to the institution of higher education at which the confidential resource advisory is employed
269 or provides contracted services.

270 (o) Each institution of higher education in the state shall employ responsible employees,
271 as defined in subsection (a), who shall be responsible for reporting cases of dating violence,
272 domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking to the Title IX coordinator of the institution.
273 Responsible employees shall complete minimum training requirements as determined by the
274 department of higher education in coordination with the attorney general and that include
275 training by a local, state or national victim services organization and shall be responsible for
276 providing a student or employee of the institution who reports that the student or employee has
277 been a reporting party of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking whether
278 the offense occurred on or off campus, with a written explanation of the student or employee's
279 rights and options, as described in section 168D of chapter 6.

280 (p) An individual who participates in the implementation of an institution of higher
281 education's disciplinary process, including an individual responsible for resolving complaints of
282 reported incidents, shall have training or experience in handling dating violence, domestic
283 violence, sexual assault and stalking complaints and the operations of the institution's
284 disciplinary process. The training shall include, but not be limited to: (i) information on working

285 with and interviewing persons subjected to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and
286 stalking; (ii) information on particular types of conduct that constitute dating violence, domestic
287 violence, sexual assault and stalking including same-sex dating violence, domestic violence,
288 sexual assault and stalking; (iii) information on consent and the role drugs and alcohol can play
289 in the ability to consent; (iv) the effects of trauma including neurobiological impact on a person;
290 (v) cultural awareness training regarding how dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault
291 and stalking may impact students differently depending on a student's cultural background; and
292 (vi) ways to communicate sensitively and compassionately with a reporting party of dating
293 violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking including, but not limited to, an awareness
294 of responding to a reporting party with consideration of that party's cultural background and
295 providing services to or assisting in locating services for the reporting party.

296 (q) Each institution of higher education shall ensure that its Title IX coordinator and
297 members of its special or campus police force or the campus safety personnel employed by the
298 institution are educated in the awareness and prevention of dating violence, domestic violence,
299 sexual assault and stalking and in trauma-informed response.

300 (r) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a member of the state
301 police or a local police department who acts as a first responder to a report of dating violence,
302 domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking at an institution of higher education shall receive
303 training in the awareness and prevention of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault
304 and stalking and in trauma-informed response, subject to appropriation.

305 (s) Each public institution of higher education shall integrate a threat response program to
306 be used for emergency communications both on-campus and off-campus. The program shall: (i)
307 collect a variety of formatted data that is relevant to campus public safety and state and local

308 emergency and first responder agencies including photographs of individuals, physical
309 descriptions, medical conditions, allergies, household data, primary language indicator and
310 emergency contacts; (ii) allow for information to be entered by an individual via a secure website
311 and mobile handset application in which the individual may provide information; (iii) be
312 compliant with the accessibility requirements under section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act
313 of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794d; (iv) manage the accuracy and timeliness of the data through a reminder
314 process, at least twice per year, requesting application users to keep their data up-to-date; (v)
315 automatically display data provided by an individual to campus safety and 911 call takers when
316 an emergency call is placed from a registered and confirmed phone number; (vi) support the
317 delivery of application user information via a secure internet connection to a campus public
318 safety office and the public safety answering points within the commonwealth; (vii) work across
319 every campus and be compatible with emergency call taking equipment in the commonwealth;
320 (viii) make data available to first responders; (ix) allow for the submission of anonymous or
321 confidential crime tips via a handset application or by texting into a designated short code; and
322 (x) support a user's ability to initiate a timer via the handset application that allows for at least 1
323 individual to view the user's location information for a specified period of time in order to assist
324 in the event of an emergency.

325 (t) Annually, by October 1, an institution of higher education shall prepare and submit to
326 the department of higher education, the department of public health and the senate and house
327 chairs of the joint committee on higher education a report that includes the following information
328 on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: (i) the total number of
329 allegations of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking reported to the
330 institution's Title IX coordinator by a responsible employee, student or employee of the

331 institution against another student or employee of the institution; (ii) the number of cases made
332 by a student or employee of the institution against another student or employee of the institution
333 investigated by local or state law enforcement, if known; (iii) the number of students found
334 responsible for violating an institution's policies prohibiting sexual assault; (iv) the number of
335 students found not responsible for violating an institution's policies prohibiting sexual assault;
336 and (v) the number of students separated from the institution as a result of a finding of
337 responsibility for violating an institution's policies prohibiting sexual assault. The report shall
338 provide information in a de-identified manner that complies with state and federal privacy laws.

339 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2017, institutions of higher education shall enter
340 into and maintain a memorandum of understanding as required under subsection (i) of section 45
341 of chapter 15A of the General Laws.

342 SECTION 4. Not later than July 1, 2017, the department of higher education shall
343 provide a feasibility report on funding the campus safety advisor position established under
344 proposed section 45 of chapter 15A through an assessment on public and private institutions of
345 higher education. The department shall submit the report to the clerks of the senate and house of
346 representatives, the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on higher education and the
347 chairs of the senate and house committees on ways and means.

348 SECTION 5. The first annual report shall be submitted pursuant to subsection (t) of
349 section 45 of chapter 15A of the General Laws not later than October 1, 2018.

350 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.