SENATE DOCKET, NO. 961 FILED ON: 1/19/2017

SENATE . . . . . No. 216

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 providing health education in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Harriette L. Chandler	*First Worcester*	
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*	*1/24/2017*

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 961 FILED ON: 1/19/2017

SENATE . . . . . No. 216

By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 216) of Harriette L. Chandler and Denise Provost for legislation to provide health education in schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *248* OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

An Act providing health education in 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 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "languages", in line 6, the words "health education".

SECTION 2. Paragraph 3 of said section 1D of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the fourth sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The standards for health education shall be age-appropriate, medically accurate and shall, at minimum, provide for instruction in the following areas: growth and physical development, physical activity and fitness, nutrition, reproduction and sexuality, mental health, family life, interpersonal relationships, disease prevention and control, safety and injury

prevention, tobacco, alcohol, and other substance use and abuse prevention, consumer health and resource management, ecological health, and community and public health.

SECTION 3. Consistent with the provisions of section 1E of said chapter 69, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework shall be construed as a guide for local school districts in the development and selection of curriculum, textbooks and instructional materials.

SECTION 4. Paragraph 14 of section 1I of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following clause:-

(l) health education.

SECTION 5. Consistent with the provisions of section 32A of chapter 71, every city, town, regional school district or vocational school district implementing or maintaining curriculum which primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues shall adopt a policy ensuring parental/guardian notification. Such policy shall afford parents or guardians the flexibility to exempt their children from any portion of said curriculum through written notification to the school principal. No child so exempted shall be penalized by reason of such exemption. To the extent practicable, program instruction materials for said curriculum shall be made reasonably accessible to parents, guardians, educators, school administrators, and others for inspection and review.

SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require an MCAS exam on health education.

SECTION 7. The foundation budget must be re-evaluated in the categories of (1) classroom and specialist teachers, (2) instructional equipment, and (3) professional development to ensure sufficient funding to provide the health education envisioned in the Frameworks and Section 2 above.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2018.