

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

Senate, December 30, 2019

Senate, December 26, 2019 -- The committee on Public Health, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1290) of Jason M. Lewis, Paul A. Schmid, III, David Allen Robertson, Danielle W. Gregoire and other members of the General Court for legislation to expand access to healthy food choices in vending machines on state property; and (accompanied by, House, No. 3738) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Natalie M. Blais and others relative to expanding access to healthy food choices in vending machines on state property,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2449).

For the committee,  
Joanne M. Comerford

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to expanding access to healthy food choices in vending machines on state property.

*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. Section 133A of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
2 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 18 to 19, the words "no later  
3 than December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and eighty-three" and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following words:- annually, on or before December 31

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
6 adding the following section: - Section 238. (a) As used in this section, the following words  
7 shall, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, have the following meanings:-

“Commissioner”, the commissioner of public health

9 “Department”, the department of public health

10           “Government property”, all property owned or managed by the commonwealth including  
11       government office buildings, road-side rest stops, state parks and recreation centers, state  
12       colleges and universities and state-supported hospitals.

13        “Non RSA-vendor”, any person who by contract, agreement or ownership is responsible  
14      for furnishing, installing, servicing, operating or maintaining a vending machine or vending  
15      facility who is not licensed by the commission for the blind to operate such machine or facility.

16        “Nutritional standards”, the standards promulgated by the department in accordance with  
17      subsection (b).

18        “Vending machine”, any self-service device offered for public use which, upon insertion  
19      of a coin, coins, token, paper currency, or by any other means, dispenses servings of food or  
20      beverage, either in bulk or in package.

21        “Vendor”, a blind person licensed by the commission for the blind to operate a vending  
22      facility under the terms of the Randolph-Shepard Act, 20 U.S.C. chapter 6A, section 107; 29  
23      U.S.C. sections 701 et. seq.; and sections 129, 130, 131J and 133 through 133E, inclusive, of  
24      chapter 6 of the General Laws.

25            (b) All foods or beverages sold through vending machines located in government  
26      buildings or on property owned or managed by the commonwealth shall be limited to food and  
27      beverage items that comply with the nutritional standards established by the commissioner of  
28      public health. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations establishing evidence-based  
29      nutrition and food procurement standards that meet or exceed those set forth in “Health and  
30      Sustainability Guidelines for Federal Concessions and Vending Operations,” issued by the  
31      federal general services administration, or “Healthy Workplace Food and Beverage Toolkit,”  
32      issued by the American Heart Association or “Model Beverage and Food Vending Machine  
33      Standards,” issued by the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity. The Commissioner shall  
34      complete these regulations no later than 180 days after this is signed into law.

35           The commissioner shall periodically review such nutritional and procurement standards  
36       and amend the regulations to reflect advancements in nutrition science, dietary data, and new  
37       product availability. The commissioner shall also establish by regulation rules regarding  
38       requirements for display of nutritional information on or near vending machines located in  
39       government buildings or on property owned or managed by the commonwealth about products  
40       sold in such vending machines. The commissioner shall also establish regulations regarding that  
41       food and beverage items that meet the nutrition standards should be placed so as to be  
42       prominently and easily visible, and in the prime selling positions; that food and beverage items  
43       that meet the nutrition standards should be available at prices equal to or less than the prices for  
44       similar products that are available and that do not meet the nutrition standards; and that food and  
45       beverage items that do not meet the nutrition standards options should not be promoted through  
46       discounted prices, bundled meals, or promotional signs. The commissioner shall also establish by  
47       regulation a schedule for compliance by vendors and non-RSA vendors with the nutritional  
48       standards established by the commissioner.

49           (c) To assist in the implementation of the nutritional standards set forth in this section, the  
50       commissioner shall designate an appropriate position within the department to disseminate  
51       information and train staff on the nutritional standards to ensure compliance. The designated  
52       position shall monitor compliance and report to the commissioner every year on the status of  
53       implementation. The annual report shall include: an assessment of compliance with the  
54       nutritional standards; a description of any issues encountered in implementation of the nutritional  
55       standards; and recommendations for improvement of the nutritional standards and compliance.

56           (d) The commissioner shall take the following actions:

57                   (1) notify current vendors and non-RSA vendors of the nutritional standards and the  
58        required schedule for compliance.

59                   (2) require future procurement or vending contracts to include a provision stipulating that  
60        all food and beverage items will meet the nutritional standards; and

61                   (3) determine whether products sold through vending machines located in government  
62        buildings or on property owned or managed by the commonwealth meet the nutritional standards  
63        established by the commissioner.

64                   (4) Any vendor or non-RSA vendor who is found to be in noncompliance shall be subject  
65        to termination of contract within any state facility or on state property; provided, however, that  
66        any such vendor or non-RSA vendor shall have 60 days to cure any such non-compliance before  
67        termination.

68                   (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a state agency, institute, property,  
69        administrator, or manager to place vending machines on government property.