

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2979**

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Text of an amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means to the Senate Bill relative to sexual violence on higher education campuses (being the text of Senate, No. 2978, printed as amended). January 5, 2021.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act relative to 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 is hereby amended by inserting after section  
2 168C the following 2 sections:-

3           Section 168D. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the  
4 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5           “Institution”, a public or independent institution of higher education located in the  
6 commonwealth and authorized to grant degrees pursuant to any general or special law.

7           “Sexual misconduct”, an incident of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence,  
8 gender-based violence, violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression,  
9 sexual assault, sexual harassment or stalking.

10           (b) (1) Each institution shall conduct a sexual misconduct climate survey of all students at  
11 the institution not less than once every 4 years.

12           (2) The sexual misconduct climate surveys shall gather information on topics including,  
13 but not limited to: (i) the number of reported and unreported incidents of sexual misconduct at  
14 the institution of higher education; (ii) when and where incidents of sexual misconduct occurred;  
15 (iii) student awareness of institutional policies and procedures related to campus sexual assault;  
16 (iv) whether a student reported the sexual misconduct and, if so, to which campus resource the  
17 report was made; (v) whether a student was informed of or referred to local, state, campus or  
18 other resources or victim support services, including appropriate medical care and legal services;  
19 (vi) whether a student was provided with information about resources for protection from  
20 retaliation, access to school-based supportive measures and civil justice and criminal justice  
21 remedies; (vii) contextual factors, such as whether the incident of sexual misconduct involved  
22 force, incapacitation or coercion; (viii) demographic information that could be used to identify  
23 at-risk groups; and (ix) perceptions of campus safety among members of the campus community  
24 and confidence in the institution of higher education’s ability to protect against and respond to  
25 incidents of sexual misconduct.

26           (c) There shall be a task force on sexual misconduct surveys. The task force shall consist  
27 of: the commissioner of higher education or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the  
28 commissioner of public health or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the secretary of public  
29 safety or a designee; the attorney general or a designee; 1 person to be appointed by the speaker  
30 of the house of representatives; 1 person to be appointed by the senate president; and 21 persons  
31 to be appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be students attending a public institution of  
32 higher education, 1 of whom shall be a student attending a public community college and 1 of  
33 whom shall be a student attending a public university, 2 of whom shall be students attending an  
34 independent institution of higher education in the commonwealth, 1 of whom shall be a

35 representative of the University of Massachusetts recommended by the president of the  
36 university, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the state universities recommended by the  
37 Massachusetts State Colleges Council of Presidents, 1 of whom shall be a representative of  
38 community colleges recommended by the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges, 2  
39 of whom shall be representatives of private colleges and universities recommended by the  
40 Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts, Inc., 1 of whom shall be  
41 a representative recommended by Jane Doe, Inc.: the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual  
42 Assault And Domestic Violence, 1 of whom shall be a representative recommended by the  
43 Victim Rights Law Center, Inc., 2 of whom shall be representatives recommended by sexual  
44 assault crisis service centers and counseling centers located in an urban and rural region of the  
45 commonwealth, 2 of whom shall be representatives recommended by community-based sexual  
46 assault crisis service centers funded by the department of public health, 1 of whom shall be a  
47 representative recommended by the Massachusetts commission on lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
48 transgender, queer and questioning youth, 1 of whom shall be a representative recommended by  
49 the Every Voice Coalition or any successor organization, 2 of whom shall be researchers with  
50 experience in the development and design of sexual misconduct climate surveys and 2 of whom  
51 who shall have experience in higher education survey analysis and be researchers of: (i)  
52 statistics; (ii) data analytics; or (iii) econometrics.

53 (d)(1) The task force shall develop model questions for use by institutions in sexual  
54 misconduct climate surveys. The task force shall provide the model questions to the  
55 commissioner of higher education with related recommendations respecting the content, timing  
56 and application of the surveys. The recommendations shall include, but not be limited to,

57 recommendations on achieving statistically valid response rates and that address non-response  
58 bias.

59 (2) The sexual misconduct climate survey model questions shall include a subset of  
60 questions taken from or consistent with questions in the Administrator-Researcher Campus  
61 Climate Collaborative survey or another sexual misconduct climate survey that is currently in  
62 use by institutions and that the task force deems high-quality. The subset of model questions  
63 shall generate responses related to topics including, but not limited to: (i) the prevalence of  
64 sexual misconduct on campus; (ii) student knowledge of and familiarity with campus practices  
65 for reporting and addressing sexual misconduct; and (iii) services available to victims of sexual  
66 misconduct.

67 (3) In developing the sexual misconduct climate survey model questions, the task force  
68 shall: (i) utilize best practices from peer-reviewed research and consult with individuals with  
69 expertise in the development and use of sexual misconduct climate surveys by institutions of  
70 higher education; (ii) review sexual misconduct climate surveys that have been developed and  
71 previously utilized by institutions of higher education; (iii) provide opportunities for written  
72 comment from organizations that work directly with survivors of sexual misconduct to align  
73 questions with a trauma-informed approach and to ensure the adequacy and appropriateness of  
74 the proposed content; (iv) consult with institutions of higher education on strategies for  
75 optimizing the effectiveness of the survey; (v) provide opportunities for written comment from  
76 advocates to ensure that the survey impartially addresses campus sexual misconduct; and (vi)  
77 account for the diverse needs of and differences between the commonwealth's institutions of  
78 higher education.

79 (4) The commissioner of higher education shall review and approve the sexual  
80 misconduct climate survey model questions provided by the task force and shall periodically  
81 review and make recommendations for changes to the model questions and to the content and  
82 timing of the sexual misconduct climate surveys. The commissioner shall provide a copy of the  
83 model questions to all institutions; provided, however, that an institution may develop and use its  
84 own campus-specific survey if the survey: (i) is designed to provide the institution with data to  
85 inform policies to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct; (ii) meets quality standards  
86 determined by the commissioner; and (iii) includes the subset of model questions described in  
87 paragraph (2).

88 (e) Within 120 days after completion and analysis of a sexual misconduct climate survey,  
89 each institution shall post a summary of the results on the institution's website.

90 (f) A sexual misconduct climate survey, including any campus-specific surveys  
91 developed and implemented by an institution, shall collect anonymous responses and shall  
92 prohibit the disclosure of identifying information.

93 (g) The department of higher education shall promulgate regulations necessary to  
94 implement this section.

95 Section 168E. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the  
96 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

97 "Institution", a public or independent institution of higher education located in the  
98 commonwealth and authorized to grant degrees pursuant to any general or special law.

99           “Reporting party”, a student or employee of an institution who reports being subject to an  
100 incident of sexual misconduct to the institution.

101           “Responding party”, a student or employee of an institution who has been accused of an  
102 alleged incident of sexual misconduct.

103           “Sexual misconduct”, an incident of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence,  
104 gender-based violence, violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression,  
105 sexual assault, sexual harassment or stalking.

106           “Title IX”, Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972.

107           “Title IX coordinator”, the employee of an institution responsible for the institution’s  
108 compliance with Title IX.

109           (b) Consistent with applicable state and federal law and regulation, each institution shall  
110 adopt policies on sexual misconduct involving students or employees of the institution that  
111 comport with the best practices and current professional standards and shall establish procedures  
112 for regularly reviewing and updating the policies. The policies shall be publicly available on the  
113 institution’s website in an accessible format and shall be made available in writing to an  
114 applicant, student or employee of the institution upon request. The policies shall be developed in  
115 coordination with the institution’s Title IX coordinator and may consider input from internal and  
116 external entities including, but not limited to, institutional administrators, personnel affiliated  
117 with on-campus or off-campus health care centers, personnel affiliated with on-campus, when  
118 available, or local, community-based rape crisis centers or domestic violence programs,  
119 confidential resource providers, residence life staff, students, the department of state police and  
120 the police department or district attorney having jurisdiction in the city or town in which the

121 institution's primary campus is located. The policies shall include, but not be limited to: (i)  
122 procedures by which students and employees at the institution may report or disclose incidents of  
123 sexual misconduct regardless of where the offense occurred; (ii) information on where to receive  
124 immediate emergency assistance following an incident of sexual misconduct, which shall  
125 include, but not be limited to, information related to preserving evidence and contact information  
126 for seeking medical treatment on campus, if available, and off campus; (iii) descriptions of the  
127 types of counseling and health, safety, academic and other support services available from the  
128 institution within the local community or region or through a local community-based rape crisis  
129 center or domestic violence program, including contact information; (iv) information on the  
130 rights of students and employees to: (A) notify or decline to notify law enforcement, including  
131 campus, local and state police, of an alleged incident of sexual misconduct; (B) receive  
132 assistance from campus authorities in making any such notification; (C) obtain a court-issued  
133 protective order or an institution-issued no-contact order against an alleged perpetrator of the  
134 sexual misconduct; and (D) concurrently utilize the institution's process for investigating sexual  
135 misconduct complaints and any external civil or criminal processes available to the student or  
136 employee; (v) school-based supportive or protective measures reasonably available from the  
137 institution, which shall include, but not be limited to, options for changing academic, living,  
138 campus transportation or working arrangements in response to an alleged incident of sexual  
139 misconduct, regardless of where the conduct occurred or whether such conduct occurred outside  
140 of an institution's programs or activities, and regardless of whether a complaint is filed in  
141 accordance with the institution's policy for resolving complaints, how to request such measures  
142 and the process to have any such measures reviewed; (vi) procedures for students or employees  
143 to notify the institution that a protective order has been issued under state or federal law and the

144 institution's responsibilities upon receipt of such notice; (vii) a summary of the institution's  
145 procedures for resolving complaints of sexual misconduct promptly and equitably, including  
146 clear statements advising students and employees: (A) that notice shall be given to the  
147 responding party and shall include, but not be limited to, the date, time and location, if known, of  
148 the alleged incident of sexual misconduct and a specific statement of which policies were  
149 allegedly violated and by what actions; (B) that an impartial investigation, including any  
150 hearings and resulting disciplinary proceedings, shall be conducted by an individual who  
151 receives not less than annual training on issues relating to sexual misconduct, investigatory  
152 procedures and hearing procedures to protect the safety and rights of students and employees and  
153 promote accountability; (C) that there is a presumption that the responding party is not  
154 responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made by the  
155 institution at the conclusion of the relevant process; (D) that both parties shall be provided equal  
156 opportunities to inspect and review evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly  
157 related to the allegations; (E) that the reporting party of an alleged incident of sexual misconduct  
158 and the responding party may be accompanied by and represented by an advisor or support  
159 person of their choice, which may include an advocate or counsel, to meet with the institution's  
160 investigator or other fact finder and may consult with an advisor or support person, which may  
161 include an advocate or counsel, during any meetings, hearings and disciplinary proceedings;  
162 provided, however, that the institution may establish rules regarding how the meetings, hearings  
163 and disciplinary proceedings will be conducted, which may include guidelines on the extent to  
164 which the advisor or support person for each party may participate in a meeting, hearing or  
165 disciplinary proceeding and any limitations on participation; provided further, that the rules,  
166 including guidelines on participation and limits of participation, shall apply equally to both



167 parties; and provided further, that the institution shall adopt reasonable measures to provide for  
168 the involvement of the advisor or support person for each party but the availability of the advisor  
169 or support person shall not significantly delay a meeting or disciplinary proceeding; (F) of the  
170 standard of evidence used to resolve complaints; (G) that the reporting party and the responding  
171 party shall be provided with a copy of the institution's policies regarding the submission and  
172 consideration of evidence that may be used during a hearing or disciplinary proceeding and shall  
173 have equal opportunity to present evidence and witnesses on their behalf during a hearing or  
174 disciplinary proceeding; provided, however, that each party shall be provided with timely and  
175 equal access to relevant evidence that shall be used in the determination of a disciplinary action;  
176 (H) that there may be restrictions on evidence considered by the fact finder including, but not  
177 limited to, the use of evidence of prior sexual activity or character witnesses; (I) that the  
178 reporting party and the responding party shall not be personally allowed to directly question  
179 each other during a hearing or disciplinary proceedings; (J) that the reporting party and the  
180 responding party shall be informed in writing of the results of a hearing or disciplinary  
181 proceeding not later than 7 business days after a final determination of a complaint, not including  
182 any time for appeal, unless good cause for additional time is shown, and they shall be informed  
183 of any process for appealing the decision; (K) that if an institution offers an appeal as a result of  
184 procedural errors, previously unavailable relevant evidence that could significantly impact the  
185 outcome of a case or where the sanction is disproportionate to the findings, the reporting party  
186 and the responding party shall be provided with an equal opportunity to appeal decisions  
187 regarding responsibility or sanctions; and (L) that the institution shall not disclose the identity of  
188 the reporting party and the responding party, except as necessary to carry out a disciplinary  
189 process or as permitted under state or federal law; (viii) a summary of the institution's employee

190 disciplinary process as it pertains to sexual misconduct; (ix) the range of sanctions or penalties  
191 the institution may impose on students and employees found responsible for a violation of the  
192 applicable institutional policy prohibiting acts of sexual misconduct; and (x) a summary of the  
193 institution's policy on retaliation, noting that the institution prohibits retaliation against anyone  
194 who reports sexual misconduct, who assists another in making a report or who participates in an  
195 investigation of a report.

196 (c) Each institution shall, to the extent feasible, adopt a memorandum of understanding  
197 with local law enforcement agencies to establish the respective roles and responsibilities of each  
198 party related to the prevention of and response to on-campus and off-campus sexual misconduct.  
199 In adopting the memorandum of understanding, institutions and local law enforcement agencies  
200 shall develop policies and procedures that comply with all applicable confidentiality and privacy  
201 laws and that: (i) set out the jurisdiction of the local law enforcement agencies based on criteria  
202 such as location and type of incident and provide for cross-jurisdictional or multi-jurisdictional  
203 response and investigation, as appropriate; (ii) establish protocols, as permitted by federal and  
204 state law, for cases where a student or employee consents to the release of relevant  
205 documentation and information generated or acquired during local law enforcement or campus  
206 police investigations; and (iii) include methods for notifying the appropriate district attorney's  
207 office. If an institution is subject to the jurisdiction of more than 1 local law enforcement agency,  
208 1 memorandum of understanding among the institution and the local law enforcement agencies  
209 shall comply with this subsection.

210 (d) The commissioner shall appoint within the department of higher education a campus  
211 safety advisor to facilitate and advance statewide campus safety at public and private institutions  
212 of higher education. Such person shall have relevant public safety policy experience that may

213 include campus public safety policy experience. The advisor shall coordinate, aggregate and  
214 disseminate best practices, training opportunities and other resources to enhance campus safety  
215 at institutions of higher education.

216 (e) An institution shall make publicly available on its website, in an accessible format: (i)  
217 the Annual Security Report required under the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus  
218 Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act relating to sexual misconduct and all  
219 information contained in an institution's annual report as required in subsection (q); (ii) the  
220 telephone number and website for a local, state or national 24-hour hotline that provides  
221 information on sexual misconduct; (iii) the name and contact information for the institution's  
222 Title IX coordinator; (iv) the name and contact information for a confidential resource provider,  
223 appointed pursuant to subsection (l), and a description of the role of and services provided by a  
224 confidential resource provider, which shall be updated on a timely basis; (v) the name and  
225 location of the nearest medical facility where an individual may request that a sexual assault  
226 evidence collection kit be administered by a trained sexual violence forensic health care  
227 provider, including, but not limited to, information on transportation options and reimbursement  
228 for travel costs, if any; (vi) its policies on sexual misconduct; (vii) sexual misconduct reporting  
229 options for students and employees; (viii) the process of investigation and adjudication by the  
230 institution; and (ix) the process for requesting a possible interim protective school-based  
231 supportive measure, when reasonable and available, to change an academic, living, campus  
232 transportation or working situation in response to alleged sexual misconduct The institution shall  
233 also establish the methods for sharing reports with local law enforcement authorities pursuant to  
234 the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act  
235 and for facilitating the issuance of timely warnings and emergency notifications required by the

236 federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act  
237 relative to crimes that may pose a serious threat to the campus or near campus communities.

238 (f) Annually, not later than October 15, institutions of higher education shall transmit to  
239 students and employees by electronic mail their policies and procedures concerning the reporting  
240 and investigation of an allegation of sexual misconduct made by a student or employee of the  
241 institution against another student or employee of the institution.

242 (g) Upon receiving a report of sexual misconduct, an institution shall provide a notice of  
243 the student's or the employee's rights and options under the institution's sexual misconduct  
244 policies to the reporting party.

245 (h) An institution that does not provide its own sexual assault crisis service center shall  
246 enter into and maintain a memorandum of understanding with a community-based sexual assault  
247 crisis service center funded by the department of public health and a community-based domestic  
248 violence program funded by the department of public health to: (i) provide an off-campus  
249 alternative for students and employees to receive sexual assault crisis services, including access  
250 to a sexual assault nurse examiner if available, or domestic violence crisis services in response to  
251 sexual misconduct; (ii) ensure that a student or employee of the institution is able to access free  
252 and confidential counseling and advocacy services either on campus or off campus; and (iii)  
253 encourage cooperation and trainings between the institution and the service center or program to  
254 ensure an understanding of the roles that the institution, service center and program should play  
255 in responding to reports and disclosures of sexual misconduct against students and employees of  
256 the institution and the institution's protocols for providing support and services to the students  
257 and employees.

258           The memorandum of understanding may include an agreement, including a fee structure,  
259 for the sexual assault crisis service center or domestic violence program to provide confidential  
260 victim services. Confidential victim services may include: (i) case consultation and training fees  
261 for confidential resource employees; (ii) consultation fees for the development and  
262 implementation of student education and prevention programs; (iii) the development of staff  
263 training and prevention curricula; and (iv) confidential on-site office space for an advocate from  
264 a sexual assault crisis service center or domestic violence program to meet with students and  
265 employees.

266           The department of higher education may waive the memorandum of understanding  
267 requirement to an institution that demonstrates that the institution acted in good faith but was  
268 unable to obtain a signed memorandum. To the extent feasible, an institution that does provide  
269 its own sexual assault crisis service center shall also enter into and maintain a memorandum of  
270 understanding under this subsection with a community-based sexual assault crisis service center  
271 funded by the department of public health and a community-based domestic violence program  
272 funded by the department of public health; provided, however, that the department of higher  
273 education, in consultation with the department of public health, shall provide guidance on what  
274 shall constitute feasibility for the purposes of such memorandum.

275           (i) An institution shall provide a method for anonymously reporting an incident of sexual  
276 misconduct that involves a student or employee of the institution.

277           (j) An institution shall notify its students and employees of the institution's obligations  
278 under state and federal law to: (i) investigate or address the alleged sexual misconduct, including  
279 when the alleged act was reported anonymously; (ii) assess whether the report triggers the need

280 for a timely warning or emergency notification under state or federal regulations, the obligations  
281 of which may, in limited circumstances, result in the release of the reporting party's identity; and  
282 (iii) disclose the identity of a reporting party to another student, an employee or a third party.

283 (k) A reporting party or a witness who causes an investigation of sexual misconduct shall  
284 not be subject to a disciplinary sanction for a violation of the institution's student conduct policy  
285 related to the incident unless the institution determines that the report was not made in good faith  
286 or that the violation was egregious. An egregious violation shall include, but not be limited to,  
287 taking an action that places the health and safety of another person at risk.

288 (l) Each institution shall establish a campus security policy that includes the designation  
289 of at least 1 confidential resource provider. The confidential resource provider may have another  
290 role at the institution; provided, however, that the confidential resource provider shall not be a  
291 student, a Title IX coordinator or an employee who is required by Title IX to report to the Title  
292 IX coordinator. The institution shall designate new or existing categories of employees that may  
293 serve as confidential resource providers. The designation of an existing category of employees  
294 shall not preclude the institution from designating a new or existing employee or partnering with  
295 a local, state or national victim services organization to serve as a confidential resource provider  
296 or to serve in another confidential role. An institution may partner with an outside victim support  
297 services organization to provide a confidential resource provider under this section. An  
298 institution that enrolls less than 1,000 students may partner with another institution in the region  
299 or within the commonwealth to establish a campus security policy and provide a confidential  
300 resources provider.

301           Upon the request of the reporting party or responding party, the confidential resource  
302 provider shall provide information on: (i) reporting options and the effects of each option; (ii)  
303 counseling services available on campus and through a local, community-based rape crisis center  
304 or domestic violence program; (iii) medical and health services available on campus and off  
305 campus; (iv) available school-based supportive measures related to academic and residence life;  
306 (v) the disciplinary process of the institution; and (vi) the legal process carried out through local  
307 law enforcement agencies.

308           The confidential resource provider shall receive training in the awareness and prevention  
309 of sexual misconduct and in trauma-informed response and coordinate with on-campus and off-  
310 campus sexual assault crisis service center or domestic violence program and, if directed by the  
311 reporting party, campus or local law enforcement agencies may, as appropriate, assist the student  
312 or employee in contacting or reporting to campus or local law enforcement agencies. If requested  
313 by the reporting party, the confidential resource provider, using only the reporting party's  
314 identifying information, shall coordinate with the appropriate institutional personnel to arrange  
315 possible interim protective school-based supportive measures to allow the reporting party to  
316 change academic, living, campus transportation or working arrangements in response to the  
317 alleged sexual misconduct. A confidential resource provider shall not provide services to adverse  
318 parties in an incident of sexual misconduct and shall ensure confidentiality is maintained.

319           The confidential resource provider shall notify the reporting party of their rights and the  
320 institution's responsibilities regarding a protection order, no contact order and any other lawful  
321 orders issued by the institution or by a criminal, civil or tribal court. The confidential resource  
322 provider shall not be required to report an incident to the institution or a law enforcement agency  
323 unless otherwise required to do so by state or federal law and shall provide confidential services

324 to students and employees. A request for a possible interim protective school-based supportive  
325 measure made by a confidential resource provider on behalf of a reporting party to change an  
326 academic, living, campus transportation or working situation in response to alleged sexual  
327 misconduct shall not require the reporting party to file a formal complaint for Title IX purposes.  
328 A confidential resource provider may attend an administrative or institution-based adjudication  
329 proceeding as the advisor or support person of the student's or employee's choice.

330 Unless otherwise required by state or federal law, a confidential resource provider shall  
331 not disclose confidential information without the prior written consent of the reporting party who  
332 shared the information; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall limit a responding  
333 party's right of cross examination of the confidential resource provider in a civil or criminal  
334 proceeding if the confidential resource provider testifies after being given written consent to do  
335 so by the party. A confidential communication shall not be subject to discovery and shall be  
336 inadmissible in a criminal or civil proceeding without the prior written consent of the party who  
337 shared the information who shared the information. Information provided to the confidential  
338 resource provider shall not be released to a campus official or law enforcement officer or agency  
339 unless written consent has been given by the reporting party. A confidential resource provider  
340 shall not act as a counselor or therapist unless the confidential resource provider holds a valid  
341 license under chapter 112 and the reporting party engages the confidential resource provider in  
342 that capacity. The privileges available under chapter 233 shall apply to all information received  
343 by a confidential resource provider.

344 If a conflict of interest arises for an institution in which a confidential resource provider  
345 is advocating for the reporting party's need for sexual assault crisis services or campus or law



346 enforcement services, the institution shall not discipline, penalize or otherwise retaliate against  
347 the confidential resource provider for representing the interest of the reporting party.

348 Notice to a confidential resource provider of an alleged act of sexual misconduct or a  
349 confidential resource provider's performance of a service under this section shall not be  
350 considered actual or constructive notice of such an alleged act to the institution at which the  
351 confidential resource provider is employed or provides contracted services.

352 (m) Within 45 days of their matriculation or employment, an institution of higher  
353 education shall provide to newly-enrolled students and newly-hired employees: (i) mandatory  
354 sexual misconduct primary prevention and awareness programming for newly-enrolled students  
355 and newly-hired employees of the institution that shall include, but not be limited to: (A) an  
356 explanation of civil rights laws, their meaning, purpose, definition and applicability to all forms  
357 of sex-based and gender-based harm; (B) the role drugs and alcohol play in changing behavior  
358 and affecting an individual's ability to consent; (C) information on options relating to the  
359 reporting of an incident of sexual misconduct, the effects of each option and the methods to  
360 report an incident of sexual misconduct, including confidential and anonymous disclosure; (D)  
361 information on the institution's policies and procedures for resolving sexual misconduct  
362 complaints and the range of sanctions or penalties the institution may impose on students and  
363 employees found responsible for a violation; (E) the name, contact information and role of the  
364 confidential resource provider; and (F) strategies for bystander intervention and risk reduction;  
365 and (ii) information on opportunities for ongoing sexual misconduct prevention and awareness  
366 campaigns and programming.

367 (n) An individual who participates in the implementation of an institution of higher  
368 education's disciplinary process for addressing complaints of sexual misconduct, including an  
369 individual responsible for resolving complaints of reported incidents, shall have training or  
370 experience in handling sexual misconduct complaints and the operations of the institution's  
371 applicable disciplinary process. The training shall include, but not be limited to: (i) information  
372 on working with and interviewing persons subjected sexual misconduct; (ii) information on  
373 particular types of conduct that constitute sexual misconduct; (iii) information on consent and the  
374 role drugs and alcohol may play in an individual's ability to consent; (iv) the effects of trauma,  
375 including any neurobiological impact on an individual; (v) cultural competence training  
376 regarding how sexual misconduct may impact individuals differently depending on factors that  
377 contribute to an individual's cultural background, including, but not limited to, national origin,  
378 sex, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation; (vi) ways to  
379 communicate sensitively and compassionately with a reporting party of sexual misconduct  
380 including, but not limited to, an awareness of responding to a reporting party with consideration  
381 of that party's cultural background and providing services to or assisting in locating services for  
382 the reporting party; (vii) training and information regarding how sexual misconduct may impact  
383 individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities; and (viii) training on the principles of  
384 due process necessary to ensure that proceedings are conducted impartially in a manner that is  
385 fundamentally fair to all parties.

386 (o) Each institution of higher education shall ensure that its Title IX coordinator and  
387 members of its special or campus police force or the campus safety personnel employed by the  
388 institution are educated and trained in the awareness and prevention of sexual misconduct.

389 (p) Nothing in this section shall prevent any other civil rights remedies available through  
390 any other provision of state or federal law.

391 (q) Annually, not later than December 1, each institution of higher education shall  
392 prepare and submit to the department of higher education a report that includes: (i) the total  
393 number of allegations of sexual misconduct reported to the institution's Title IX coordinator by a  
394 , student or employee of the institution against another student or employee of the institution; (ii)  
395 the number of allegations made by a student or employee of the institution against another  
396 student or employee of the institution investigated by local or state law enforcement agency, if  
397 known; (iii) the number of students and employees found responsible for violating an  
398 institution's policies prohibiting sexual misconduct; (iv) the number of students and employees  
399 found not responsible for violating an institution's policies prohibiting sexual misconduct; and  
400 (v) the number of disciplinary actions imposed by the institution as a result of a finding of  
401 responsibility for violating an institution's policies prohibiting sexual misconduct. Such incident  
402 data shall be reported in the form and manner established by the department, in consultation with  
403 the attorney general, and in a manner that complies with state and federal privacy laws. The  
404 department shall analyze the incident data and shall publish an annual report containing  
405 aggregate statewide information on the frequency and nature of sexual misconduct at institutions.  
406 The department shall file the annual report with the attorney general, the clerks of the senate and  
407 the house of representatives and the joint committee on higher education.

408 (r) The department of higher education shall promulgate regulations necessary to  
409 implement this section

410 SECTION 2. The department of higher education shall promulgate regulations to  
411 implement subsection (c) of section 168E of chapter 6 of the General Laws not later than August  
412 1, 2021.

413 SECTION 3. The task force on sexual misconduct surveys established in section 168D of  
414 the General Laws shall provide the model questions and related recommendations required under  
415 said section 168D to the commissioner of higher education not later than January 1, 2022.

416 SECTION 4. Section 1 shall take effect on August 1, 2021.