

SENATE No. 926

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Diana DiZoglio

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 relative to the mandated reporter law.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Diana DiZoglio</i> | <i>First Essex</i> | |
| <i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i> | <i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i> | <i>1/29/2019</i> |
| <i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i> | <i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i> | <i>1/30/2019</i> |

SENATE No. 926

By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 926) of Diana DiZoglio, Patrick M. O'Connor and Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation relative to the reporting of neglect or abuse by mandated reporters. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2267 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the mandated reporter law.

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 51A of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as most recently amended
2 by section 10 of chapter 178 of the acts of 2011, is hereby further amended by striking out the
3 first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

4 (a) A mandated reporter who, in his or her professional capacity, has reasonable
5 cause to believe that a child is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting from: (i) abuse
6 inflicted upon him which causes harm or substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare,
7 including sexual abuse; (ii) neglect, including malnutrition; (iii) physical dependence upon an
8 addictive drug at birth, (iv) being a sexually exploited child; or (v) being a human trafficking
9 victim as defined by section 20M of chapter 233, shall immediately communicate with the
10 department orally and, within 48 hours, shall file a written report with the department detailing

11 the suspected abuse or neglect. A mandated reporter who, in his or her professional capacity,
12 becomes aware of a sexually exploitative relationship between a child under the age of 18 and
13 another mandated reporter, shall immediately communicate with the department orally and,
14 within 48 hours, shall file a written report with the department detailing the suspected
15 exploitation.