

HOUSE No. 4457

Section 30 contained in the engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2022 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4345, amended), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message, see Attachment D of House, No. 4458). February 12, 2022.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act providing for a comprehensive COVID-19 vaccination equity plan.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith provide for a comprehensive COVID-19 vaccination equity plan, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the secretary of health and
2 human services shall prepare and implement a detailed comprehensive COVID-19 vaccination
3 equity plan, including interim goals, benchmarks and timelines, to significantly increase the
4 proportion of adults and children who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19, including booster
5 vaccinations, among communities in the commonwealth that have disproportionately low
6 vaccination rates, which may include, but shall not be limited to, minority, immigrant and low-
7 income communities. The goal of the plan shall be to eliminate disparities in the rates of
8 vaccination within 120 days of the effective date of this section. The plan shall include: (i)
9 mechanisms necessary to directly deliver medically and scientifically accurate, culturally

10 competent and linguistically diverse information about the safety and efficacy of vaccination,
11 including particularly the COVID-19 vaccine, and the pathways to receiving a COVID-19
12 vaccine; (ii) a complete list of existing or new community-based partnerships for implementation
13 of the plan, including an explanation of the role of local public health departments or boards of
14 health, community-rooted faith-based organizations and locally-based health care providers in
15 implementing the plan; and (iii) a budget for implementation with funding sources identified.

16 The secretary shall provide the plan in writing to the house and senate committees on ways and
17 means, the joint committee on COVID-19 and emergency preparedness and management and the
18 joint committee on public health and make the plan publicly available on the website of the
19 department of public health not later than 30 days after the effective date of this section. The
20 secretary shall report progress towards achieving the equity plan goals by region, by municipality
21 and statewide not less than every 60 days following the completion of the plan.