

HOUSE No. 678

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 hazing prevention for student athletes.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 678

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 678) of Alice Hanlon Peisch relative to hazing prevention for student athletes. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to hazing prevention for student athletes.

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

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 47A the
2 following section:-

3 Section 47B. (a) Each public high school shall provide a hazing training program for
4 student athletes in which all public schools and any school subject to the Massachusetts
5 Interscholastic Athletic Association rules shall participate; provided, that such training program
6 shall be administered directly by the school or by an agency or organization approved by the
7 department. Participation in the program shall be required for all students participating in an
8 extracurricular athletic activity prior to the commencement of their athletic season.

9 The program shall include, but not be limited to:

10 (1) providing student athletes with the definition of hazing and a description of the types
11 of behavior that can be considered hazing, as outlined under section 17 of chapter 269, pursuant
12 to section 19 of chapter 269;

13 (2) providing student athletes with a description of their responsibility to report hazing as
14 outlined under section 18 of chapter 269, pursuant to section 19 of chapter 269;

15 (3) providing student athletes with a description of the legal penalties associated with
16 hazing and failure to report hazing pursuant to sections 17 through 19 of chapter 269;

17 (4) providing student athletes with a description of possible school-level disciplinary
18 proceedings associated with hazing, as outlined in the district or school's student handbook and
19 policies; and

20 (5) providing student athletes with a description of the negative impact on: (i) the person
21 being hazed, including physical, social, and emotional harm; (ii) those who haze; and (iii) the
22 school, organization, or team, including potential forfeiture of games and civil damages.

23 (b) The department shall develop forms on which students shall indicate in writing that
24 they received and understood the hazing training. These forms shall require the signature of both
25 the student and the parent or legal guardian thereof. Once complete, the forms shall be
26 forwarded to all coaches prior to allowing any student to participate in an extracurricular athletic
27 activity.

28 (c) The superintendent of the school district or the director of a school shall maintain
29 complete and accurate records of the district's or school's compliance with the requirements of
30 this section. Each district shall file, with the report required under section 19 of chapter 269, an
31 additional statement with the department, certifying that the district has complied with the above
32 provisions. A school that fails to comply with this section, as determined by the department, shall
33 be subject to penalties determined by the department.

34 (d) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this
35 program.

36 (e) The provisions in this section are to be construed in conjunction with section 19 of
37 chapter 269. Nothing in this section shall be construed as precluding or limiting the provisions
38 contained in section 19 of chapter 269.