

SENATE No. 1004

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:

Diana DiZoglio

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex

SENATE No. 1004

By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1004) of Diana DiZoglio for legislation relative to the reporting of neglect or abuse by mandated reporters. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 926 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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.