

**SENATE . . . . . No. 299**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Cynthia Stone Creem*

*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 to establish food allergy plans.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/18/2021</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 299**

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By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 299) of Cynthia Stone Creem for legislation to establish food allergy plans. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 2398 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to establish food allergy plans.

*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 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting the following new section:-

3 Section 37S.

4 (a) For the purposes of this section the following terms shall, unless the context clearly  
5 requires otherwise, have the following meaning:-

6 "Approved private day or residential school", a school that accepts, through agreement  
7 with a school committee, a child requiring special education pursuant to section 10 of chapter  
8 71B.

9 "Department", the department of elementary and secondary education.

10           “Food Allergy”, adverse health effect arising from a specific immune response that  
11 occurs reproducibly on exposure to a given food

12           "Food Allergy Management and Prevention Plan", a comprehensive plan to manage and  
13 prevent food allergies in schools

14           “Individualized Health Care Plan”, a plan based on information provided by the primary  
15 care provider or allergist, including, but not limited to, the following: the student’s name,  
16 methods of identifying the student, specific offending allergens, warning signs of reactions and  
17 emergency treatment.

18           (b) (i) Every school district, approved private day or residential school and education  
19 collaborative in which a student with life-threatening food allergies is enrolled shall maintain a  
20 Food Allergy Management and Prevention Plan (“Plan”) to address food allergy safety and  
21 training. Districts included in this requirement shall draft the Plan and share with the guardian of  
22 a student with life-threatening food allergies within 30 days of notice of enrollment or the first  
23 day of said student’s attendance, whichever is sooner. The plan shall apply to members of  
24 school staff, including, but not limited to, educators, administrators, school nurses, cafeteria  
25 workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to an extracurricular activity,  
26 paraprofessionals, and substitute personnel. The plan shall be updated at least biennially, as long  
27 as at least one student with severe food allergies is enrolled.

28           (ii) Each plan shall include, but not be limited to: (i) protocols for identification of  
29 students with known food allergies, including medical documentation; (ii) policies for the daily  
30 management of food allergies for individual students; (iii) strategies and policies to reduce  
31 exposure to allergens for students with food allergies; (iv) clear procedures for treating allergic

32 reactions for students with both known and unknown allergies; (v) policies for treating allergic  
33 reactions when a school nurse is available onsite and when no school nurse is available; (vi)  
34 strategies for treating allergic reactions during extracurricular activities or non-school hour  
35 events (vii) policies for school nurses to develop Individualized Health Care Plans (IHCP) for  
36 students with food allergies; (viii) professional development for school personnel and staff  
37 members on food allergies; and (ix) notification to parents and students of food allergy policies  
38 and practices.

39 (iii) The plan shall include a provision for professional development to build the skills of  
40 all staff members, including, but not limited to, educators, administrators, school nurses,  
41 cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to extracurricular activities  
42 and paraprofessionals. The content of such professional development shall include but not be  
43 limited to: (i) training on reducing exposure to food allergens for students with allergies; (ii)  
44 techniques for food allergy management of students with food allergies; (iii) recognizing the  
45 symptoms of a severe allergic reaction; and, (iv) for appropriate staff, training and testing for  
46 competency in epinephrine administration. The department shall identify and offer information  
47 on alternative methods for fulfilling the professional development requirements of this section, at  
48 least 1 of these alternative methods shall be available at no cost. (iv) The plan shall be posted on  
49 the website of the school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or  
50 residential school and education collaborative.

51 (v) Each school principal, or the person who holds a comparable position, in consultation  
52 with the school nurse, shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the plan.

53 (c) The department, in consultation with the department of public health and experts in  
54 the field of food allergies shall: (i) periodically update and share with school districts the  
55 Managing Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools guidelines on food allergies or successor  
56 document; (ii) publish model plans for school districts to consider when creating their plans  
57 pursuant to paragraphs (ii) through (iii) of subsection (b); and (iii) compile a list of food allergy  
58 resources, best practices and research that shall be made available to schools. The department  
59 shall biennially update the model plan and the list of the resources, curricula, best practices and  
60 research and shall post them on its website; provided however, that the department shall solicit  
61 public comment prior to establishing the guidelines.

62 SECTION 2. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 official Edition,  
63 is hereby amended by inserting the following new section:-

64 Section 236. The department of public health is hereby authorized to establish a program  
65 to combat food allergies and raise awareness of the prevalence and danger of food allergies. Said  
66 program may be conducted in conjunction with any foundation or scientific organization,  
67 hospital or medical school, with an agency of the federal government, or nationally recognized  
68 nonprofit or educational organization or entity recognized for research or education in the field  
69 of food allergies.