HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2241 FILED ON: 1/19/2023

HOUSE . . . . . No. 199

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jack Patrick Lewis

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 let kids play.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Jack Patrick Lewis	*7th Middlesex*	*1/19/2023*
Natalie M. Higgins	*4th Worcester*	*1/20/2023*
James K. Hawkins	*2nd Bristol*	*1/27/2023*
Samantha Montaño	*15th Suffolk*	*3/24/2023*
Julian Cyr	*Cape and Islands*	*5/1/2023*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 199

By Representative Lewis of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 199) of Jack Patrick Lewis, Natalie M. Higgins and James K. Hawkins that certain retail department stores be prohibited from dividing the display of certain childcare items into sections by gender. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act to let kids play.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 94 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 330. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings: “Childcare articles”, any product designed or intended by the manufacturer to facilitate sleep, relaxation or the feeding of children, or to help children with sucking or teething.

“Toys”, products designed or intended for use in play by children under the age of 14.

(b) A retail department store with more than 500 employees that sells childcare articles or toys shall not divide the display of such items into sections by gender.

(c) If a violation of this section is not corrected within 30 days of receiving written notice from the attorney general, the violation shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $1,000.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect 180 days following its passage.