

HOUSE No. 543

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tram T. Nguyen, (BY REQUEST)

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 health programs in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Maya Schildkraut</i>		<i>1/14/2023</i>
<i>Ivy Michaud</i>		<i>1/14/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 543

By Representative Nguyen of Andover (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 543) of Maya Schildkraut and Ivy Michaud relative to health programs in schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to health programs in schools.

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. The General Court hereby finds and declares that:

2 (1) aspects of the current health curriculum taught in the commonwealth negatively
3 impact students and their mental and physical health, particularly with regard to information
4 relative to nutrition and eating disorders;

5 (2) health curriculum that requires students to analyze and track their food consumption
6 may negatively affect students’ mental, physical and emotional health and foster disordered
7 eating habits;

8 (3) the Massachusetts comprehensive health framework was last revised in 1999 and a
9 revised framework is critical to the health and nutritional education of students in the
10 commonwealth.

11 SECTION 2. (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall review and
12 revise the 1999 Massachusetts comprehensive health framework with particular focus on: (i)

13 revising the nutritional education curriculum to foster healthful eating and physical activity
14 through enhancing student agency and competence; (ii) increase student understanding about
15 biology, personal behavior and access to nutritional foods, including navigating modern food
16 systems, understanding food nutrition labels and addressing sedentary behavior; and (iii)
17 recognition of disordered eating and how to recognize and address the development of
18 disordered eating habits.

19 (b) Not later than June 30, 2024, the department of elementary and secondary education
20 shall file a report with the joint committee on education detailing the proposed revisions to the
21 1999 Massachusetts comprehensive health framework.