

HOUSE No. 455

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

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 providing health education in schools.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Marjorie C. Decker</i> | <i>25th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/19/2023</i> |
| <i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i> | <i>1st Hampshire</i> | <i>1/19/2023</i> |
| <i>Mindy Domb</i> | <i>3rd Hampshire</i> | <i>1/19/2023</i> |
| <i>Priscila S. Sousa</i> | <i>6th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/15/2023</i> |
| <i>Natalie M. Higgins</i> | <i>4th Worcester</i> | <i>2/28/2023</i> |
| <i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i> | <i>7th Middlesex</i> | <i>6/13/2023</i> |

HOUSE No. 455

By Representative Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 455) of Marjorie C. Decker and others relative to providing health education in schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 567 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to providing health education 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. Section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “languages”, in line 7, the
3 following words:- , health education

4 SECTION 2. Paragraph 3 of said section 1D of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby
5 further amended by striking out the fourth sentence and inserting in place thereof the following
6 sentence:-

7 The standards for health education shall be age-appropriate, medically accurate and shall,
8 at minimum, provide for instruction in the following areas: growth and physical development,
9 physical activity and fitness, nutrition, reproduction and sexuality, mental health, family life,
10 interpersonal relationships, disease prevention and control, safety and injury prevention, tobacco,

11 alcohol, and other substance use and abuse prevention, consumer health and resource
12 management, ecological health, and community and public health.

13 SECTION 3. Consistent with the provisions of section 1E of said chapter 69, the
14 Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework shall be construed as a guide for
15 local school districts in the development and selection of curriculum, textbooks and instructional
16 materials.

17 SECTION 4. Section 1I of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
18 striking out the words “nutrition and wellness”, in line 206, and inserting in place thereof the
19 following words:- health education

20 SECTION 5. Consistent with the provisions of section 32A of chapter 71, every city,
21 town, regional school district or vocational school district implementing or maintaining
22 curriculum which primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues shall
23 adopt a policy ensuring parental/guardian notification. Such policy shall afford parents or
24 guardians the flexibility to exempt their children from any portion of said curriculum through
25 written notification to the school principal. No child so exempted shall be penalized by reason of
26 such exemption. To the extent practicable, program instruction materials for said curriculum
27 shall be made reasonably accessible to parents, guardians, educators, school administrators, and
28 others for inspection and review.

29 SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require an MCAS exam on health
30 education.

31 SECTION 7. The foundation budget must be re-evaluated in the categories of (1)
32 classroom and specialist teachers, (2) instructional equipment, and (3) professional development

33 to ensure sufficient funding to provide the health education envisioned in the Frameworks and
34 Section 2 above.

35 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.