

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 544**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*James J. O'Day and Vanna Howard*

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 healthy youth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/21/2023</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/21/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/21/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/21/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/23/2023</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Edward R. Philips</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>

<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Ryan M. Hamilton</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>
<i>Priscila S. Sousa</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Kate Donaghue</i>	<i>19th Worcester</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Rob Consalvo</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/16/2023</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Christopher Richard Flanagan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Shirley B. Arriaga</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/1/2023</i>

<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/2/2023</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>3/4/2023</i>
<i>Brandy Fluker Oakley</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/9/2023</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>3/14/2023</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/15/2023</i>
<i>Estela A. Reyes</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>	<i>5/25/2023</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/30/2023</i>
<i>Kip A. Diggs</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>	<i>5/30/2023</i>
<i>Jennifer Balinsky Armini</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>5/30/2023</i>
<i>Adrienne Pusateri Ramos</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>6/6/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 544**

By Representatives O'Day of West Boylston and Howard of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 544) of James J. O'Day, Vanna Howard and others that certain schools develop written policies ensuring parental or legal guardian notification of comprehensive sexual health education. Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to healthy youth.

*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 2020 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by striking out section 32A and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 sections:-

4 Section 32A. A city, town, regional school district, vocational school district or charter  
5 school implementing or maintaining a curriculum that primarily involves human sexual  
6 education or human sexuality issues shall adopt a written policy ensuring parental or legal  
7 guardian notification of the comprehensive sexual health education provided by the school, the  
8 right of the parent or legal guardian to withdraw a student from all or part of the instruction, and  
9 the notification process to the school for withdrawal. The policy shall also include a process for  
10 parents and legal guardians to inspect the program instruction materials prior to the start of the  
11 course, if the parent or legal guardian requests to review the materials.

12 To the extent possible, such notification shall be provided in English and in other  
13 commonly spoken languages spoken by parents and guardians. Annually, no later than  
14 September 1, the policy shall be distributed to parents or guardians of a student in a grade that  
15 includes a comprehensive sexual health education curriculum during the upcoming academic  
16 year; provided, however, that parents or guardians shall not have less than 30 days notification  
17 prior to the start of such instruction. The policy shall be distributed in the same manner as any  
18 student handbook that is distributed to students. If student handbooks are not distributed in a  
19 certain grade, the policy shall be distributed in the same manner as other notices provided to  
20 parents and guardians at the start of the school year. Upon adoption or amendment, a copy of  
21 each district’s policy, including the name of the comprehensive sexual health education  
22 curriculum being used, shall be sent to the department of elementary and secondary education.

23 If a parent or guardian withdraws a student from all or part of the comprehensive sexual  
24 health education curriculum, the student shall not be subject to disciplinary action, academic  
25 penalty or any other sanction. An alternative educational activity shall be made available to  
26 students who have been withdrawn from instruction.

27 Section 32B. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall, unless the  
28 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

29 “Age-appropriate”, topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or  
30 age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, social, and  
31 behavioral capacity typical for that age or age group.

32 “Department”, the department of elementary and secondary education.

33 “Medically accurate”, supported by peer-reviewed research conducted in compliance  
34 with accepted scientific methods and recognized as accurate and objective by leading medical,  
35 psychological, psychiatric and public health organizations and agencies and, if relevant,  
36 published in peer-reviewed journals.

37 (b) For the purposes of this section, a curriculum’s discussions of the terms “consent,”  
38 “gender expression,” “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” shall be construed consistently  
39 with the terms as used or defined in the annual report of the commission on lesbian, gay,  
40 bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth established under section 67 of chapter 3.

41 (c) A city, town, regional school district, vocational school district, or charter school that  
42 offers sexual health education shall provide a medically accurate, age-appropriate,  
43 comprehensive sexual health education. Sexual health education shall be appropriate for students  
44 regardless of gender, race, disability status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and shall  
45 include, but not be limited to, teaching: (i) physical, social, and emotional changes of human  
46 development; (ii) human anatomy, reproduction, and sexual development; (iii) the benefits of  
47 abstinence and delaying sexual activity, the prevention of sexually transmitted infections,  
48 including, but not limited to, human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency  
49 syndrome, and unintended pregnancy, including, but not limited to, the effective use of  
50 contraceptives and barrier methods; (iv) ways to effectively discuss safe sexual activity; (v)  
51 relationship and communication skills to form healthy, respectful relationships free of violence,  
52 coercion, and intimidation and to make healthy decisions about relationships and sexuality,  
53 including, but not limited to, affirmative, conscious and voluntary consent to engage in physical  
54 or sexual activity; (vi) skills to recognize and prevent dating violence; and (vii) age-appropriate  
55 information about gender identity and sexual orientation for all students, including affirmative

56 education that people have different sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender  
57 expressions, and information about resources and support services for all students, including but  
58 not limited to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex/agender, queer and questioning  
59 students. Sexual health education shall incorporate opportunities for students to analyze societal  
60 and media messages.

61 (d) Any city, town, regional school district, vocational school district or charter school  
62 that utilizes curricula consistent with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum  
63 Framework health shall comply with this section.

64 (e) The department shall promulgate rules to implement, administer, and ensure  
65 compliance with the provisions of this section.

66 (f) The department may determine minimum education and training qualifications for  
67 sexual health education instructors.

68 (g) Pursuant to section 1E of chapter 69, the board of elementary and secondary  
69 education shall direct the commissioner to review and update the Massachusetts Comprehensive  
70 Health Curriculum Framework, including provisions relative to sexual health education  
71 consistent with this section, upon the effective date of this act and at least every 10 years  
72 thereafter.

73 SECTION 2. Section 1I of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
74 amended by inserting after the last paragraph the following:- Beginning the first academic year  
75 following the effective date of this act, each city, town, regional school district, vocational school  
76 district, or charter school shall file an annual report with the department regarding sexual health  
77 education in the city, town, district, or charter school by a date and in a format to be determined

78 by the board of elementary and secondary education. Said report shall include, but not be limited  
79 to, the following data for each city, town, regional school district, vocational school district, or  
80 charter school, by grade level: (1) the name and a description of any sexual health education  
81 curricula offered; (2) the approximate number of hours spent on sexual health education; (3) the  
82 number of students enrolled in sexual health education; and (4) the number of students who  
83 withdrew from sexual health education, pursuant to section 32A.

84 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect for the academic year immediately following its  
85 passage.