

SENATE . . . . . No. 1381

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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 increase access to disposable menstrual products.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex	
Rebecca L. Rausch	Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex	1/23/2023
Jack Patrick Lewis	7th Middlesex	1/24/2023
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	12th Hampden	1/26/2023
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex	1/26/2023
Michael J. Barrett	Third Middlesex	1/26/2023
Sal N. DiDomenico	Middlesex and Suffolk	1/30/2023
Patrick M. O'Connor	First Plymouth and Norfolk	1/31/2023
Mark C. Montigny	Second Bristol and Plymouth	1/31/2023
Kathleen R. LaNatra	12th Plymouth	2/1/2023
Jacob R. Oliveira	Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester	2/2/2023
Vanna Howard	17th Middlesex	2/2/2023
Brian M. Ashe	2nd Hampden	2/3/2023
Manny Cruz	7th Essex	2/7/2023
James K. Hawkins	2nd Bristol	2/8/2023
Lydia Edwards	Third Suffolk	2/13/2023
John F. Keenan	Norfolk and Plymouth	2/14/2023
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester	2/16/2023

<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	<i>3/8/2023</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>3/14/2023</i>
<i>Edward J. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>	<i>4/24/2023</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>5/1/2023</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	<i>5/2/2023</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>5/31/2023</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>5/31/2023</i>
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>5/31/2023</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>7/21/2023</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>7/27/2023</i>

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By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1381) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Rebecca L. Rausch, Jack Patrick Lewis, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase access to disposable menstrual products. Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 2730 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to increase access to disposable menstrual products.

*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 23B of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:-

3           Section 31. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following  
4 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5           “Disposable menstrual products”, products used by a menstruating individual including,  
6 but not limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons and underwear liners.

7           “Menstruating individual”, a person who menstruates.

8           (b) Any provider of temporary housing assistance, including, but not be limited to, a  
9 family shelter, a shelter for adults, a hotel used for emergency shelter, an emergency apartment, a

10 domestic violence shelter, a runaway and homeless youth shelter or a safe house for refugees,  
11 shall provide disposable menstrual products at no cost to a menstruating individual. The  
12 disposable menstrual products shall be available in a convenient manner that does not stigmatize  
13 the individual seeking such products.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
15 section 3 the following section:-

16 Section 3A. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following  
17 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

18 “Disposable menstrual products”, products used by a menstruating individual including,  
19 but not limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons and underwear liners.

20 “Menstruating individual”, a person who menstruates.

21 (b) Every primary and secondary school shall provide disposable menstrual products at  
22 no cost to students. The disposable menstrual products shall be available in a convenient manner  
23 that does not stigmatize the individual seeking such products, including, but not limited to, in  
24 restrooms for menstruating individuals.

25 SECTION 3. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
26 following section:-

27 Section 170. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following  
28 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

29 “Administrator”, the keeper of a lock-up facility under chapter 40, the superintendent of a  
30 correctional facility under chapter 125, a sheriff or special sheriff in charge of a jail, house of

31 correction or regional lock-up facility under chapter 126, the colonel of state police and any other  
32 official who oversees a facility used for the detention of persons arrested and held in custody or  
33 serving a sentence.

34 “Disposable menstrual products”, products used by a menstruating individual including,  
35 but not limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons and underwear liners.

36 “Menstruating individual”, a person who menstruates.

37 (b) The administrator shall provide disposable menstrual products to menstruating  
38 individuals held or housed in the facility overseen by the administrator at no cost. The disposable  
39 menstrual products shall be available in a convenient manner that does not stigmatize the  
40 individual seeking such products.