

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 236**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Carole A. Fiola***

*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 training of mandated reporters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>John R. Gaskey</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>1/28/2025</i>
<i>John J. Marsi</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 236**

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By Representative Fiola of Fall River, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 236) of Carole A. Fiola and John R. Gaskey relative to mandated reporting of child neglect. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to training of mandated reporters.

*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 51A of Chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 striking out subsection (k) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

3 (k) A mandated reporter who is professionally licensed by the commonwealth shall  
4 complete training at least every two years to recognize and report suspected child abuse or  
5 neglect. The training shall have a curriculum that has been approved by the Office of the Child  
6 Advocate.

7 SECTION 2: Section 5 of Chapter 18C of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
8 adding the following subsection:-

9 (i) The child advocate shall be responsible for approving curricula for mandated reporter  
10 trainings in accordance with M.G.L. c. 119 § 51A(k). Such curricula shall include, but not be  
11 limited to, recognition of the signs of child neglect or abuse and related reporting requirements,  
12 bias and cultural considerations in reporting, information on how to address concerns with

- 13 families and children when those concerns do not rise to the level of requiring a maltreatment
- 14 report, information about connecting families with needed supports and resources and how to
- 15 understand what qualifies as neglect.