

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***John R. Gaskey***

*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 ensure fairness and safety in school sports.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>John R. Gaskey</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>1/7/2025</i>
<i>Katie Ferriera-Aubin</i>	<i>50 Winter St, Rehoboth, MA 02769</i>	<i>1/7/2025</i>
<i>Justin Thurber</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>	<i>1/8/2025</i>

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to ensure fairness and safety in school sports.

*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 2022 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting the following section: -

3           Section 1E.

4           (a) No public school shall require any student athlete on a single-sex sports team to  
5 participate in a match, or any part thereof, against an opposing team that includes one or more  
6 athletes of the opposite sex. No penalty, including but not limited to loss of playing time or loss  
7 of starting status, shall be imposed by a public school on such a student athlete for refusing to  
8 play in such a match.

9           (b) No coach of a single-sex public school sports team shall be penalized by that school  
10 for forfeiting a match against an opposing team because such opposing team includes one or  
11 more athletes of the opposite sex.

12 (c) The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Massachusetts  
13 Interscholastic Athletic Association, or any equivalent school organization or an entity or board  
14 that provides athletic officials, including, but not limited to, referees and umpires, for school  
15 sports or athletic events shall not penalize any public school, single-sex public school sports  
16 team, coach of such a team, or student athlete on such a team, for forfeiting or refusing to play in  
17 a match against an opposing team because such opposing team includes one or more athletes of  
18 the opposite sex, except that such a forfeit may be recorded as a loss.

19 For the purposes of this section, a “single-sex team” is any team that is designated as  
20 either a girls’ team or a boys’ team, as opposed to a team that is designated as co-ed.