

SENATE No. 152

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan B. Lovely

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 preventing sexual abuse of children and youth by adults in positions of authority or trust.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>1/24/2025</i>
<i>Sally P. Kerans</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>3/27/2025</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>3/27/2025</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>4/2/2025</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>4/7/2025</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>6/30/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>7/1/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>10/23/2025</i>

SENATE No. 152

By Ms. Lovely, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 152) of Joan B. Lovely and Mark C. Montigny for legislation relative to preventing sexual abuse of children and youth by adults in positions of authority or trust. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 106 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to preventing sexual abuse of children and youth by adults in positions of authority or trust.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 268 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 21A the
2 following new section:-

3 Section 21B. A person over the age of 21 who is employed by or contracts with a public
4 or private school, the department of youth services, the department of children and families, the
5 department of mental health, the department of developmental services or a private institution
6 that provides services to clients of such departments, who is a teacher, administrator or a person
7 in a similar position of authority in the school, department or institution and, in the course of
8 such employment or contract or as a result thereof, engages in, within or outside of the school,
9 department or institution, sexual relations with a person who is: (i) under the age of 19, has not

10 received a high school diploma, general educational development certificate or equivalent
11 document and is served by the school, department or institution; or (ii) under the age of 22, has
12 special needs under chapter 71B, has not received a high school diploma, general educational
13 development certificate or equivalent document and is served by the school, department or
14 institution, shall have a cause of action against such an employee or contractor, under chapter
15 260, section 4C. In a civil action commenced under said section, a person served by such school,
16 department or institution shall be deemed incapable of consent to sexual relations with such an
17 employee or contractor.