

HOUSE No. 2313

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

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 fire safety education in schools and colleges.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Simon Cataldo</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 2313

By Representative Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2313) of Marjorie C. Decker and others relative to fire safety education in schools and colleges. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2434 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to fire safety education in schools and colleges.

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 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:- “Section 46. Establishment of a fire safety curriculum. (a) For the purposes of
3 this section, the following term shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the
4 following meaning:- “Institute of higher education”, all postsecondary institutions including: (i)
5 the system of public institutions of higher education, established in section 5; (ii) private
6 occupational schools, as defined in section 263 of chapter 112; and (iii) private colleges,
7 universities and other institutions of higher learning.

8 (b) All institutes of higher education shall require students to complete a comprehensive
9 fire safety curriculum from an expert source. The curriculum shall include instruction on fire
10 safety in a variety of scenarios, such as: fire prevention, fires in homes, in professional settings,

11 in vehicles, wild and brush fires, fires while cooking, while camping, electrical fires, heating
12 fires, smoking fires, solid, liquid and gas fires, smoldering fires, fast-burning fires, smoke
13 inhalation, carbon monoxide poisoning, and leaving a fire scene, and any other matter the
14 institution deems essential to the curriculum. Students shall complete an examination to test
15 student proficiency.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
17 section:- “Section 98. Establishment of a fire safety curriculum. (a) For the purposes of this
18 section, the following term shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the
19 following meaning:- “School”, every public or private elementary and secondary school in the
20 commonwealth; provided, however, that the term school shall not include colleges and
21 universities.

22 (b) All schools shall require students to complete a comprehensive fire safety curriculum
23 by the end of the 10th grade from an expert source. The curriculum shall include instruction on
24 fire safety in a variety of scenarios, such as: fire prevention, fires in homes, in professional
25 settings, in vehicles, wild and brush fires, fires while cooking, while camping, electrical fires,
26 heating fires, smoking fires, solid, liquid and gas fires, smoldering fires, fast-burning fires,
27 smoke inhalation, carbon monoxide poisoning, and leaving a fire scene, and any other matter the
28 institution deems essential to the curriculum. Students shall complete an examination to test
29 student proficiency.