

HOUSE No. 366

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer M. Callahan

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing local school health advisory councils.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Christine E. Canavan	10th Plymouth
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 403 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LOCAL SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCILS.

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 is hereby amended by inserting after section 54B
2 the following section:-

3 Section 54C. The school committee of each school district shall establish a local school health
4 education advisory council to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in
5 the district's health education instruction and wellness programs.

6 A school district must consider the recommendations of the local school health education
7 advisory council before changing the district's health education curriculum or instruction.

8 The local school health advisory council's duties include recommending:- (a) the number
9 of hours of instruction to be provided in health education;(b) health education curriculum
10 appropriate for specific grade levels that shall incorporate the Massachusetts Comprehensive
11 Health Curriculum Framework and that may include a coordinated health education program
12 consistent with guidelines based on the American School Health Association's Comprehensive
13 School Health Program and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention coordinated school
14 health program designed to prevent obesity, cardiovascular disease, and Type II diabetes through
15 coordination of the following nine elements:

- 16 (i) health services;
- 17 (ii) health education;
- 18 (iii) school nutrition services;
- 19 (iv) physical education;

- 20 (v) healthy school environment;
- 21 (vi) school counseling;
- 22 (vii) school psychological and social services;
- 23 (viii) staff health and wellness; and
- 24 (ix) family and community involvement.

25 The school committee shall appoint members to the local school health advisory council. A majority of
26 the members must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district and who are not
27 employed by the district. The board of trustees also may appoint one or more persons from each of the
28 following groups or a representative from a group other than a group specified under this subsection:
29 public school teachers, public school administrators, students, licensed health care professionals, the
30 business community, law enforcement, senior citizens, the clergy and nonprofit organizations.

31 The department of education shall monitor and act as a clearing house for the activities of the local
32 school health advisory councils.

33 The department shall also notify each school district of the availability of professional development
34 opportunities on school health issues.

35 Each local school district shall develop an action plan prepared in collaboration with the local school
36 health advisory council to assist in implementation of health education and wellness policies. The action
37 plan shall identify steps that need to be taken each year to fully implement the policy and shall include a
38 review and appropriate modification of existing physical education and health curricula.

39 SECTION 2. The department of education shall conduct a cost analysis study under the direction of
40 the commissioner and the advisory board established pursuant to section 12 of chapter 6 to identify the
41 annual costs associated with continuously funding comprehensive health education resources to be used
42 by local health advisory councils to assist in meeting district health education action plans, goals and
43 objectives. The study shall be completed and reported to the general court and the governor by April,
44 2008.

45 The department shall also notify each school district of the availability of professional development
46 opportunities and resources in school health education issues.

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