

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4533**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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By Mr. Sánchez of Boston, for the committee on Public Health, on House, No. 2033, a Bill providing educational information about premature infants' risks and healthcare needs (House, No. 4533). March 1, 2010.

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An Act PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PREMATURE INFANTS'  
RISKS AND HEALTHCARE NEEDS.

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FOR THE COMMITTEE

NAME:

Jeffrey Sánchez

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

15th Suffolk

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Ten

## An Act PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PREMATURE INFANTS' RISKS AND HEALTHCARE NEEDS.

*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 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 67C the  
2 following section: -

3 Section 67C ½

4 (1) The department shall prepare written educational publications containing information about the  
5 possible complications, proper care and support associated with newborn infants who are born premature  
6 at less than 37 weeks gestational age. The written information shall at a minimum include the following:

- 7 (A) The unique health issues affecting infants born premature, such as: increased risk of  
8 developmental problems; nutritional challenges; infection; chronic lung disease  
9 (bronchopulmonary dysplasia); vision and hearing impairment; breathing problems; feeding;  
10 maintaining body temperature; jaundice; hyperactivity; infant mortality as well as long-term  
11 complications associated with growth and nutrition; respiratory problems; fine motor skills;  
12 reading; writing; mathematics and speaking.
- 13 (B) The proper care needs of premature infants, developmental screenings and monitoring and  
14 healthcare services available to premature infants through the Medicaid program and other public  
15 or private health programs.
- 16 (C) Methods, vaccines and other preventative measures to protect premature infants from infectious  
17 diseases, including viral respiratory infections.
- 18 (D) The emotional and financial burdens and other challenges that parents and family members of  
19 premature infants experience and information about community resources available to support  
20 them.

21 (2) The publications shall be written in clear language to educate parents of premature infants across a  
22 variety of socioeconomic statuses. The department may consult with community organizations that focus  
23 on premature infants or pediatric healthcare. The department shall update the publications every two  
24 years.

25 (3) The Department shall distribute these publications to children's health providers, maternal care  
26 providers, hospitals, public health departments and medical organizations and encourage those  
27 organizations to provide the publications to parents or guardians of premature infants.