

SENATE No. 1260

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Liz Miranda

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 expanding access to trauma informed care and mental health first aid training.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Liz Miranda

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Suffolk

SENATE No. 1260

By Ms. Miranda, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1260) of Liz Miranda for legislation to expand access to trauma informed care and mental health first aid training. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4164 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act expanding access to trauma informed care and mental health first aid training.

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 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 26. (a) Subject to appropriation, within the department of mental health, there
3 shall be a center for mental health first aid, in this section hereinafter referred to as the center.
4 The center shall serve as a source for evidence-based mental health and trauma first aid training
5 programs for residents of the commonwealth to educate individuals on how to support others
6 who may be suffering from a mental health condition or trauma, reduce biases against mental
7 illness and allow residents of the commonwealth to more comfortably engage with issues relative
8 to trauma and mental health.

9 (b) The center shall be funded with revenue from appropriations or other money
10 authorized by the general court and specifically credited to the center, and revenue from private
11 sources including, but not limited to, grants, both state and federal, gifts and donations received
12 by the commonwealth that are specifically credited to the center.

13 (c) The center shall establish an 8-hour training program that shall teach individuals to:

14 (i) have a greater knowledge of the signs, symptoms and risk factors associated with mental
15 illness, addiction and trauma; (ii) identify the characteristics of trauma's impact across a lifetime;
16 (iii) identify multiple types of professional and self-help resources for individuals with mental
17 illness or addiction or those suffering from post-traumatic experiences; (iv) help individuals in
18 distress become more confident about the help they provide; and (v) develop increased mental
19 well-being themselves, and diminish any stigma and discomfort they have about mental illness
20 and trauma. The center shall offer regional in-person and virtual training opportunities for
21 individuals and organizations throughout the commonwealth as needed. The training program
22 shall be free for any resident of the commonwealth and shall be offered in multiple languages, as
23 determined by the center.

24 (d) The center shall publish an annual report including: (i) narrative and statistical
25 information about training demand, delivery, cost and identified service gaps during the prior
26 year; (ii) the effectiveness of the services delivered during the prior year; and (iii) which
27 communities conducted in-person trainings during the prior year. The center shall submit the
28 annual report not later than February 1 to the governor, the secretary of health and human
29 services, the commissioner of mental health, the clerks of the house of representatives and the
30 senate and the joint committee on mental health, substance abuse and recovery.