

**SENATE . . . . . No. 209**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Katherine M. Clark***

*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 relative to healthy youth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Michael Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Kenneth J. Donnelly</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>

<i>Cynthia S. Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 209**

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By Ms. Clark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 209) of Katherine M. Clark, Jason M. Lewis, John W. Scibak, Martha M. Walz and other members of the General Court for legislation realtive to healthy youth and sex education. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE

□ □ SENATE  
□ , NO. 190 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
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An Act relative to healthy youth.

*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, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after Section 32A the following:—

3 Section 32B. (1) For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the  
4 following meanings:

5 “Age-appropriate” means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular  
6 ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and  
7 behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.

8 “Department” means the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

9 “Medically accurate” means supported by peer-reviewed research conducted in  
10 compliance with accepted scientific methods, and recognized as accurate and objective by  
11 leading medical, psychological, psychiatric, and public health organizations and agencies, and,  
12 where relevant, published in peer-reviewed journals.

13 (2) Each school district or public school that offers sexual health education shall provide  
14 medically accurate, age-appropriate education.

15 Sexual health education under this section shall: teach the benefits of abstinence and  
16 delaying sexual activity; stress the importance of effectively using contraceptives and barrier  
17 methods to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including  
18 HIV/AIDS; teach students the skills to effectively negotiate and implement safer sexual activity;  
19 help students develop the relationship and communication skills to form healthy, respectful  
20 relationships free of violence, coercion, and intimidation and make healthy decisions about  
21 relationships and sexuality; and be appropriate for students regardless of gender, race, disability  
22 status, or sexual orientation.

23 No speaker, program, curriculum, or materials used by a public school to provide  
24 instruction regarding sexual health shall conflict with the standards set out in this section, and  
25 information about abstinence may not be provided separate from information on contraceptives  
26 and disease prevention.

27 (3) Sexual health education must be consistent with the Massachusetts comprehensive  
28 health curriculum framework developed by the department.

29 The commissioner of education shall develop a list of sexual health education curricula  
30 that are consistent with this section and the comprehensive health curriculum framework. This  
31 list shall be intended to serve as a resource for schools, teachers, or any other organization or  
32 community group, and shall be updated annually and made available on the department web site.  
33 Any school district or public school that utilizes these curricula in a manner consistent with  
34 section 32B(2) shall be presumed to be in compliance with this section.

35 (4) The department shall establish a procedure, to be described on its website, to enable  
36 any parent or guardian with a child enrolled in a school district, or any student enrolled in a  
37 school district, to bring to the attention of the department any sexual health curriculum or  
38 program which the individual believes is inconsistent with the requirements of this act. The  
39 commissioner shall assess any such curriculum or program and provide guidance and training to  
40 the school district to address identified inconsistencies and report back to the complaining  
41 individual within 60 days.

42 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability of parents to exempt their  
43 children from instruction which primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality  
44 issues under the provisions of section 32A of this chapter.

45 SECTION 2. Section 1I of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
46 amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:—

47           Each school district and Commonwealth charter school shall file a report regarding  
48 sexual health education in the district with the department every year by a date and in a format  
49 determined by the board. Said report shall include, but not be limited to, the following data for  
50 each public school and Commonwealth charter school, by grade level:

51           (a) a description of any sexual health education curricula or programs offered;

52           (b) the approximate number of hours spent on sexual health education;

53           (c) the number of students receiving sexual health education; and

54           (d) the number of students who opt-out of sexual health education under the provisions of  
55 section 32A of chapter 71.