HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 999 FILED ON: 1/19/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 179

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice K. Wolf

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:

An Act relative to providing health education in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Ruth B. Balser	*12th Middlesex*
Gloria L. Fox	*7th Suffolk*
Denise Andrews	*2nd Franklin*
David Paul Linsky	*5th Middlesex*
Cleon H. Turner	*1st Barnstable*
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*
William N. Brownsberger	☐ *[District]* ☐
Byron Rushing	*9th Suffolk*
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*
Frank I. Smizik	*15th Norfolk*
Stephen Kulik	*1st Franklin*
Harriette L. Chandler	☐ *[District]* ☐
Peter V. Kocot	*1st Hampshire*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*

Elizabeth A. Malia	*11th Suffolk*
John D. Keenan	*7th Essex*
Jay R. Kaufman	*15th Middlesex*
Martin J. Walsh	*13th Suffolk*
Christine E. Canavan	*10th Plymouth*
John P. Fresolo	*16th Worcester*
Steven M. Walsh	*11th Essex*
John W. Scibak	*2nd Hampshire*
Jennifer L. Flanagan	☐ *[District]* ☐
Michael J. Moran	*18th Suffolk*
James B. Eldridge	☐ *[District]* ☐
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	*26th Middlesex*
Linda Dorcena Forry	*12th Suffolk*
Sarah K. Peake	*4th Barnstable*
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	*34th Middlesex*
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	*10th Hampden*
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
Martha M. Walz	*8th Suffolk*
Cory Atkins	*14th Middlesex*
Jonathan Hecht	*29th Middlesex*
James J. O'Day	*14th Worcester*
Louis L. Kafka	*8th Norfolk*
Barry R. Finegold	☐ *[District]* ☐
Jason M. Lewis	*31st Middlesex*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
Lori A. Ehrlich	*8th Essex*
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*
Thomas P. Conroy	*13th Middlesex*
Alice Hanlon Peisch	*14th Norfolk*
Gailanne M. Cariddi	*1st Berkshire*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 179

By Ms. Wolf of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 179) of Ruth B. Balser and others relative to the teaching of health education in schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *3434* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to providing health education in schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "languages", in line 6, the words "health education".

SECTION 2. Paragraph 3 of said section 1D of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the fourth sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-

The standards for health education shall be age-appropriate, medically accurate and shall, at minimum, provide for instruction in the following areas: growth and physical development, physical activity and fitness, nutrition, reproduction and sexuality, mental health, family life, interpersonal relationships, disease prevention and control, safety and injury prevention, tobacco, alcohol, and other substance use and abuse prevention, consumer health and resource management, ecological health, and community and public health.

SECTION 3. Consistent with the provisions of section 1E of said chapter 69, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework shall be construed as a guide for local school districts in the development and selection of curriculum, textbooks and instructional materials.

17 SECTION 4. Paragraph 14 of section 1I of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby
18 amended by adding the following clause:-

19 (l) health education.

20 SECTION 5. Consistent with the provisions of section 32A of chapter 71, every city,
21 town, regional school district or vocational school district implementing or maintaining
22 curriculum which primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues shall
23 adopt a policy ensuring parental/guardian notification. Such policy shall afford parents or
24 guardians the flexibility to exempt their children from any portion of said curriculum through
25 written notification to the school principal. No child so exempted shall be penalized by reason of
26 such exemption. To the extent practicable, program instruction materials for said curriculum
27 shall be made reasonably accessible to parents, guardians, educators, school administrators, and
28 others for inspection and review.

29 SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require an MCAS exam on health
30 education.

31 SECTION 7. The foundation budget must be re-evaluated in the categories of (1)
32 classroom and specialist teachers, (2) instructional equipment, and (3) professional development
33 to ensure sufficient funding to provide the health education envisioned in the Frameworks and
34 Section 2 above.

35 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.