

**BILLS REGARDING SEXUALITY EDUCATION AND THE SCHOOLS**

**2013-2014**

**HB 421**

**“An Act relative to comprehensive health education in schools”**

**Henriquez (D)**

**Hearing Date: May 14**

Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework construed as a guide for local districts in the development and selection of curriculum, textbooks and instructional materials

**SB 202**

**“An Act providing health education in schools”**

**Chandler (D)**

**Hearing Date: May 14**

Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework construed as a guide for local districts in the development and selection of curriculum, textbooks and instructional materials

**HB 366**

**“An Act relative to providing health education in schools”**

**Decker (D)**

**Hearing Date: May 14**

Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework construed as a guide for local districts in the development and selection of curriculum, textbooks and instructional materials

## **HB 388**

**“An Act relative to comprehensive sexual education and violence prevention programs”**

**Fox (D)**

**Hearing Date: May 14**

- ...ensures youth have access to ... resources that help them make healthy and safe decisions
- Requires condom use and STI prevention be taught within health curriculums
- calls for a report on the provision of health education by schools
- calls for a count on the number of students who opt out of sex ed
- *Does not seek to determine whether schools have notified parents explicitly as to sex ed content*

## **HB 450**

**“An Act relative to healthy youth”**

**O’Day (D)**

**Hearing Date: May 14**

- Sexual Health education shall...stress the importance of effectively using contraceptives and barrier methods to prevent unintended pregnancy and STI’s
- Teach the students the skills to effectively negotiate and implement safer sexual activity
- Information on abstinence may not be provided separate from information on contraceptives and disease prevention
- Sex ed must be consistent with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health curriculum framework
- establish a procedure to enable parents to bring to the attention of the department any sexual health curriculum or program which they believe is inconsistent with the requirements of this act
- counts the number of students who opt out of sexual heal ed
- *Does not seek to determine whether schools have notified parents explicitly as to sex ed content*

**SB 209**

**“An Act relative to healthy youth”**

**Clark (D)**

**Hearing Date: May 14**

- Sexual Health education shall...stress the importance of effectively using contraceptives and barrier methods to prevent unintended pregnancy and STI's
- Teach the students the skills to effectively negotiate and implement safer sexual activity
- Information on abstinence may not be provided separate from information on contraceptives and disease prevention
- Sex ed must be consistent with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework
- establish a procedure to enable parents to bring to the attention of the department any sexual health curriculum or program which they believe is inconsistent with the requirements of this act
- counts the number of students who opt out of sexual health
- *Does not seek to determine whether schools have notified parents explicitly as to sex ed content*

**HB 522**

**“An Act regarding an analysis of health education in the commonwealth”**

**Walz (D)**

**Hearing Date; May 14**

- Checks whether school curricula are in alignment with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health curriculum framework
- Counts number of student who opt out
- *Does not seek to determine whether schools have notified parents explicitly as to sex ed content*

**HB 2092**

**“An act relative to consent and counseling”**

**Story (D)**

**Hearing Date: -- -----**

- Would lower the age of consent for a minor’s abortion from 18 to 16
- Consent for a minor’s abortion could be given by certain family members over the age of 25
- Consent for a minor’s abortion could be given by physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, psychologist, social workers *(in school)*

**HB 333**

**“An Act regarding parental notification and consent”**

**Beaton (R)**

**Hearing Date: May 14**

- Makes school programs involving sexuality issues an elective requiring written parental permission
- Makes materials used accessible to parents
- Defines human sexuality issues and behaviors
- Protects religious rights of teachers and school staff not to participate in programs that violate their beliefs
- Includes sexuality issues covered in any activity or portion of an activity directed to students [counseling sessions and confidentiality?]

**HB 466**

**“An Act requiring parental consent on sex education in public schools”**

**Poirier (R)**

**Hearing date: May 14**

- Makes sex ed programs, curriculums, units of study and activities an elective requiring written parental permission
- Protects religious rights of teachers and school staff not to participate in programs that violate their beliefs

## **HB 431**

### **“An Act relative to parental notification”**

**Jones (R)**

**Hearing Date: May 14**

- Makes programs primarily\* involved with sexuality education and issues an elective requiring written parental permission
- Makes materials used accessible to parents
- Protects religious rights of teachers and school staff not to participate in programs that violate their beliefs

\*the word primarily may allow controversial material to be embedded in other areas of instruction; for example “Accessing Community Health Care Resources”

## **HB 440**

### **“An Act regarding parental notification and consent”**

**Lombardo (R)**

**Hearing Date: May 14**

- Makes sexuality education an elective requiring written parental permission
- Defines “school program” and “alternative sexual behavior” [counseling sessions and confidentiality?]
- Makes materials used accessible to parents
- Protects religious rights of teachers and school staff not to participate in programs that violate their beliefs
- Requires parental permission for students to participate in surveys that invade personal and family privacy

## **HB 452**

### **“An Act regarding surveys in public schools”**

**Orrall (R)**

**Hearing Date: May 30**

Requires parental permission for students to participate in surveys that invade personal and family privacy