

SENATE No. 331

By Mr. D'Amico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 331) of Gerard D'Amico, Robert B. Ambler, Martin T. Reilly, Nicholas J. Costello and another for legislation relative to instructional programs on the nature and effects of alcohol and alcoholism in the schools of the Commonwealth. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-three.

AN ACT CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS ON THE NATURE AND EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLISM AND PROGRAMS RELATIVE TO ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEMS 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:

1 Section 1 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as most re-
2 cently amended by Chapter 916 of the Acts of 1977, is here-
3 by further amended by adding the following at the end of said
4 section 1: —

5 The nature of alcoholic drinks and narcotics and their ef-
6 fects upon the human system shall be taught in all schools
7 supported wholly or in part by public moneys in such manner
8 as may be adapted to the age and understanding of the pupils
9 and shall be emphasized in appropriate places of the cur-
10 riculum sufficiently for a full and adequate treatment of the
11 subject. The Commissioner of the Department of Education
12 shall with the approval of the State Board of Education and
13 in consultation with the Division of Alcoholism of the Depart-
14 ment of Public Health, prepare and update as necessary cur-
15 riculum guidelines to assist school committees in fulfilling this
16 requirement. Each school committee shall make provisions in
17 its annual educational program to fulfill this requirement and
18 with respect to the requirement concerning the teaching of the
19 nature of alcoholic drinks and their effects upon the human
20 system, each committee shall consult with a local organization
21 involved with the prevention, detection, and treatment of al-

22coholism approved by the Division of Alcoholism. Each school
23committee shall adopt and implement, in accordance with rules
24and regulations promulgated by the State board, policies and
25procedures for the evaluation and treatment of pupils involved
26in incidents of possession or consumption of alcoholic bever-
27ages on school property or at school functions, or who show
28significant symptoms of intoxication or of alcoholism on school
29property or at school functions. In adopting and implementing
30these policies and procedures, the board shall consult and work
31closely with a local organization involved with the prevention,
32detection and treatment of alcoholism approved by the Di-
33vision of Alcoholism.

34The Commissioner of the Department of Education shall
35make an in-depth study of the incidence of consumption of al-
36coholic beverages by school pupils and the degree to which
37consumption of alcoholic beverages by school pupils is causing
38educational, disciplinary or other problems for school districts,
39and of the effectiveness of current laws and regulations rela-
40tive to the teaching of the nature and effects of alcoholic bev-
41erages and the training of teachers with respect to the nature
42and effects of alcoholic beverages. Based upon the study and
43after consultation with the Commissioner, the State board
44shall establish a comprehensive plan designed to insure that
45effective instructional programs on the nature of alcoholic
46beverages and their effect upon the human body, and on the
47physiological, psychological, and sociological effects of alco-
48holism, and effective programs for handling pupils who are in-
49volved in incidents of possession or consumption of alcoholic
50beverages, or who show significant symptoms of intoxication
51or of alcoholism, on school property or at school functions,
52are provided in the public schools. The plan shall provide for,
53but is not limited to: —

- 54 a. Goals, objectives and standards for alcohol education;
- 55 b. Identification of appropriate places in the curriculum and
- 56 appropriate grade levels for effective alcohol education;
- 57 c. Preparation and updating of curriculum guidelines;
- 58 d. General qualifications for all teachers in public schools
- 59 to insure that all teachers are adequately trained in and aware
- 60 of the nature and effects of alcoholic beverages and alcoholism

61 so that they may identify alcohol-related problems in pupils
62 and assist in resolving alcohol-related problems in the schools
63 or in providing effective alcohol education;

64 e. Specific qualifications for teachers providing instruction
65 in the nature and effects of alcohol and alcoholism;

66 f. Appropriate in-service training programs for teachers to
67 provide them with the opportunity to meet the general or
68 specific qualification requirements under the plan within a
69 reasonable period of time after it takes effect, and to maintain
70 their proficiency and update their knowledge relative to al-
71 cohol education as necessary;

72 g. Guidelines for policies and procedures of boards of educa-
73 tion for handling pupils involved in alcohol-related incidents or
74 with alcohol-related problems;

75 h. A uniform system for the collection of data on incidents
76 involving possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages,
77 and on pupils with alcohol-related problems, on school prop-
78 erty or at school functions.

79 In making the study and preparing and implementing the
80 plan, the Commissioner and the State board shall consult and
81 work closely with the Division of Alcoholism. The study and
82 plan shall be completed within 3 years after the effective date
83 of this act, and shall be submitted to the Governor and the
84 Legislature.

