

By Mr. Saggese of Winthrop, petition of Alfred E. Saggese, Jr., for legislation to prevent abuse and strengthen the family through comprehensive health education and human services in public schools. Education, Arts and Humanities.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT TO PREVENT ABUSE AND STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES IN PUBLIC 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. The purpose of this act is to establish a program  
2 of statewide leadership, coordination, and support for the develop-  
3 ment and implementation of sequential, comprehensive health  
4 education and counseling programs and health services which  
5 promote the health and development of public school students in  
6 kindergarten through grade twelve.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 15 of the General Laws, as most recently  
2 amended by section 6 of chapter 188 of the acts of 1985, is hereby  
3 further amended by adding at the end thereof the following  
4 sections: —

5 Section 61. The board of education shall establish a compre-  
6 hensive health education counseling services discretionary grant  
7 program. Comprehensive health education and counseling pro-  
8 grams should include, but not be limited to, planning and coordi-  
9 nation activities, curriculum development, inservice education,  
10 instruction, school counseling services, health service delivery, and  
11 parent education services which will promote the prevention of  
12 substance abuse, family violence, child abuse and neglect, teen-age  
13 pregnancy, and suicide, and promote sound health practices  
14 including nutritional health and emotional development, improved

15 school counseling services, and increased coordination between  
16 schools, parents and existing community services, especially for  
17 those students most in need.

18 The board shall solicit proposals for comprehensive health edu-  
19 cation and counseling programs for students in grades kinder-  
20 garten through twelve, inclusive. Applications shall include evi-  
21 dence of a district-wide needs assessment and planning processes,  
22 program objectives and activities, anticipated results, and evalua-  
23 tion plan, and proposed linkages with community health and  
24 human service agencies and existing school programs. Proposals  
25 which describe linkages with other health and human service agen-  
26 cies and existing programs under chapter one hundred and eighty-  
27 eight of the acts of nineteen hundred and eighty-five which provide  
28 matching funds from local, federal and private sources shall be  
29 given priority.

30 Each school committee applying for said funds shall appoint an  
31 advisory council comprised of parents, junior and senior high  
32 school students, teachers, school counseling professionals, health  
33 educators, health professionals, school administrators, and repre-  
34 sentatives of community or regional health or social service agen-  
35 cies. A school committee may designate an existing advisory coun-  
36 cil which contains the membership listed above and assumes the  
37 responsibilities of the advisory council stated herein. Advisory  
38 council members shall be broadly representative of the racial and  
39 ethnic diversity of the school district, and shall assist in the devel-  
40 opment of the application proposal and in the program imple-  
41 mentation.

42 The board shall evaluate proposals and provide technical assist-  
43 ance. In granting funds for said proposals, the board shall give  
44 highest priority to proposals which show evidence of full participa-  
45 tion of students in grades kindergarten through twelve that  
46 promote:

- 47 a) substance abuse prevention;
- 48 b) suicide prevention;
- 49 c) child abuse prevention;
- 50 d) early intervention services for high risk students;
- 51 e) child care and development;
- 52 f) parental skills for parents and adolescents;
- 53 g) interpersonal skills and family relations;

- 54 h) conflict resolution;
- 55 i) character development responsible decision making;
- 56 j) peer counseling;
- 57 k) incentives for participation by students of both sexes; and
- 58 l) inservice training components for all school staff.

59 Funds may be granted to a school district to provide for program  
60 coordinators, inservice training and program materials.

61 If the board rejects a proposal of a school committee under this  
62 act, then the board shall provide the respective school committee  
63 with a written explanation for rejection. The written explanation  
64 for rejection shall state the reasons for the rejection and suggest  
65 recommendations for resubmission.

66 Programs and services provided by this program shall supple-  
67 ment, not supplant, programs and services provided under chap-  
68 ters seventy-one A, seventy-one B, and seventy-four. At least fifty  
69 percent of said funds shall be allocated to programs serving low-  
70 income sites, as determined by the board. No more than ten percent  
71 of said funds shall be allocated for state administration of the  
72 program.

73 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any  
74 grant funds distributed under this program shall be deposited with  
75 the treasurer of the city, town or regional school district and held in  
76 a separate account and shall be expended by the school committee  
77 without further appropriation.

78 Section 62. The board shall appoint a state advisory council on  
79 comprehensive health education and school counseling services.  
80 The state council shall consist of at least fifteen, but will not exceed  
81 twenty-five, members who represent school counseling profession-  
82 als, health educators, child and adolescent health service providers,  
83 teachers, parents, high school students, school administrators and  
84 officials, and the department of welfare, public health, mental  
85 health, youth services, social services, and the office for children.  
86 State council members shall be broadly representative of the racial,  
87 ethnic, and regional diversity of the commonwealth. The board  
88 shall appoint one person from the state council to serve as the  
89 chairperson. The state council shall meet at least four times per  
90 year. The state council shall exist for three years. At the end of  
91 three years, the board may renew the state council. The tenure of  
92 membership on the state council shall be for three years and  
93 renewable at the discretion of the board.



94 The state council shall be charged with conducting a survey of  
95 existing comprehensive health education programs within and  
96 without the commonwealth and study future trends in health edu-  
97 cation and human services for public school students. The state  
98 council shall report its findings to the board by June first, nineteen  
99 hundred and eighty-seven, and each year thereafter.

100 Section 63. The board shall through the department of educa-  
101 tion administer the discretionary grant program, provide technical  
102 assistance to school districts, including information about model  
103 programs and agency services, provide for program review and  
104 evaluation, and, in consultation with the members of the state  
105 advisory council, develop program guidelines for coordinated serv-  
106 ice delivery.