

By Ms. Gardner of Holliston, petition of Barbara Gardner and other members of the General Court relative to the posting of signs concerning the warning to pregnant women of the effects of alcohol. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO WARNING PREGNANT WOMEN ABOUT ALCOHOL.

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

1 Chapter 138 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 2 the following new section: —

3 No person who owns or operates a tavern, restaurant, liquor
4 store or other establishment that sells alcoholic beverages at retail
5 shall sell alcoholic beverages in the Commonwealth unless the
6 person causes to be posted signs which clearly read: "Warning:
7 Drinking alcoholic beverages during pregnancy can cause mental
8 retardation and other birth defects, according to the Surgeon
9 General."

10 The Department of Public Health shall promulgate regulations
11 with respect to the nature of the posting of said signs. Unless
12 otherwise specified in said regulations, a sign as required herein
13 shall not be smaller than 8½ inches wide by 5½ inches long, nor
14 shall any lettering thereon be less than ⅜ inches in length.

15 Where the sale of alcoholic beverages is primarily intended for
16 consumption off the premises, signs shall be placed conspicuously
17 so as to insure that they are readable at all points of purchase.

18 Where the sale of alcoholic beverages is primarily intended for
19 consumption on the premises, signs shall be placed conspicuously
20 so as to insure tht they are readable, and at least one additional
21 sign shall be placed conspicuously so that it is readable in each
22 public restroom.

23 Where a substantial percentage of the public patronizing an
24 establishment offering alcohol for sale uses a language other than

25 English as its primary language, an additional sign shall be worded
26 in that primary language.

27 Any violation of the provisions of this section or any of the
28 regulations promulgated hereunder shall be punished by a fine of
29 not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars.