

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1524**

By Mr. McCarthy of East Bridgewater, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1524) of Allen J. McCarthy and others relative to the penalties for the illegal use and unsafe disposal of hypodermic needles in public places. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Allen J. McCarthy**

*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 bill:  
An Act relative to reducing the unsafe disposal of hypodermic needles in public places.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Allen J. McCarthy	7th Plymouth
Thomas P. Kennedy	
Daniel K. Webster	6th Plymouth
Steven J. D'Amico	4th Bristol
Stephen R. Canessa	12th Bristol
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	26th Middlesex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	16th Suffolk
Stephen L. DiNatale	3rd Worcester

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT RELATIVE TO REDUCING THE UNSAFE DISPOSAL OF HYPODERMIC NEEDLES IN PUBLIC PLACES.

*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. Chapter 94C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 32K the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 32L. (a) Any person who possesses a hypodermic syringe or hypodermic needle on any  
4 public or private school grounds, playground, park and recreation area or within 20 yards of  
5 coastal or inland waters, as defined in section 1 of chapter 131, without a written prescription  
6 shall be punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 30 days, or  
7 by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or both such fine and imprisonment for a first offense and for  
8 each subsequent violation of this section, not more than 6 months in a jail or house of correction  
9 or by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or both such fine and imprisonment .

10 (b) Any person who places, throws, deposits or discharges non-commercial spent sharps or  
11 lancets on any public land, public or private school grounds, open space, playground, park and  
12 recreation area, within 20 yards of coastal or inland waters as defined in section 1 of chapter 131,  
13 or on the property of another, shall be punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction  
14 for not more than 30 days, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by both such fine and  
15 imprisonment for a first offense and for each subsequent violation of this section not more than 6  
16 months in a jail or house of correction or by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by both such fine  
17 and imprisonment .

18 SECTION 2. Section 25K of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition,  
19 is hereby amended by inserting after the word "Helpline", in line 10, the following:- (5) information on  
20 the penalties for improper hypodermic needle and syringe possession and disposal, including, but not  
21 limited to, those enumerated in section 32L of chapter 94C.