



An Act Relative to the Teaching of Teen Dating Violence Policies in the Public Schools

House Bill 1125

Sponsor: Representative Peter J. Koutoujian (D) 10th Middlesex

Summary: Section 1 requires schools to develop specific policies and disciplinary codes to address teen dating violence as well as procedural guidelines for responding to alleged incidents of teen dating violence. Section 2 adds units on safe and healthy relationships to the core curriculum for all public schools.

Relevant Specifics of the Act:

Amends M.G.L. Chapter 71 to add “All school districts in the Commonwealth shall implement a specific policy and discipline code to address teen dating violence in public schools. The Department of Education shall develop a model policy that school districts may adopt and provide technical and legal assistance to school districts in developing written teen dating violence policies and procedures.

Such policies shall clearly state that dating violence will not be tolerated and shall include guidelines for addressing alleged incidents of dating violence. Such policies may include a teen dating violence prevention task force comprised of staff, students and parents to provide awareness training and education for the school community. Such policies would include defining the issue of teen dating violence, recognizing warning signs, identifying issues of confidentiality, safety and appropriate legal school-based interventions.”

JDI Position: JDI support this legislation as an important step in the prevention and education about dating violence, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Other Supporters: Legislative Committee of the Governor’s Commission on Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence

Current Status: Public Hearing Joint Committee on Education 9/15/05