

An Act Relative to Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses (\$764/H1209)

Lead Sponsors: Senator Michael Moore & Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier

Prevent sexual violence on college campuses, and support student survivors!

Sexual Violence on College Campuses is a Long-Standing Problem

- > More than half a million students are enrolled in MA Institutions of Higher Education
- ➤ 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college nationally
- ➤ In 2014, there were 283 reports of rape at MA institutions of higher education; with only 7% of campus rapes reported to school officials, the actual number of incidents is likely much higher
- ➤ In addition to reported rapes, 43% of college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors and 13% of college women report being stalked during their time at college

Sexual Violence Costs Trillions of Dollars

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates:

Lifetime cost of rape is \$122,461 per victim

x 25 million reported victims of rape in the US

= \$3.1 trillion in lifetime costs

<u>Costs include</u>: Short & long-term physical and mental health treatment, lost work productivity, criminal justice, and property loss or damage. These estimates do not include costs to victims' friends and families. <u>Additionally</u>: 1 out of 50 students who experience sexual violence lose one semester of tuition, costing an average \$5,150 per person, an estimated total of nearly \$2 billion nationally.

"An Act Relative to Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses" will:

Strengthen campus policy against sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking

Requires all institutions of higher education to create and communicate a policy on sexual and gender-based violence.

Raise awareness and improve prevention programming

- Requires training for students, faculty and staff on all campuses.
- Encourages institutions to establish and build on relationships with local rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs to develop survivor-led prevention programming on campuses.

Improve access to resources for survivors

- Institutions will be required to notify survivors of their rights and available resources, including how to access support services and health care on and off-campus, how to access protective measures, and what reporting options exist on campus and off.
- > Designates confidential resource advisors who can protect student privacy and encourages memorandum of understanding with community based sexual and domestic violence programs.

Supporting Organizations

American Association of University Women Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) Every Voice Coalition Jane Doe Inc., the MA Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Know Your IX Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance