



## Legislation Summary:

### An Act relative to healthy youth

Initial bill number: [S2071/H3704](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Reps. James O’Day, Paul Brodeur

This bill offers both good public policy and equal access by ensuring that children everywhere in the state will get an age-appropriate education on all health-related issues, including those related to sex education. It also upholds existing state law that lets parents opt-out their children from sex education programs.

Research shows that providing medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education helps young people stay healthy – enhancing their ability to learn. In Massachusetts today, such sex education is not universal. In some public school districts we find excellent health education, while in others there can be little to no teaching on this subject. To this day, the laws governing educational standards in the Commonwealth still do not explicitly recognize health education as a core subject. As a result, there is no guarantee that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will continue to maintain academic standards on this subject to help local school districts meet students’ educational needs. This bill provides guidance and a set of standards to follow when a district chooses to teach sex education.

**League Position:** LWVMA has a long history supporting public policy that protects reproductive choice, consumer education on maintaining health, and equal access to education for children.