



Legislation Summary:

An Act Relative to Accelerating Improvements to the Local and Regional public health systems to address disparities in the delivery of Public Health Services (SAPHE 2.0)

Initial bill number(s): H2204/S1334

Sponsors: Senator Jo Comerford, Representatives Hannah Kane and Denise Garlick

What the bill does, why LWVMA supports it, and the League position relative to this bill.

This bill ensures minimum public health standards for every community. It increases capacity and effectiveness by encouraging municipalities to share services. It creates a uniform data collection and reporting system, and establishes a sustainable state funding mechanism to support local boards of health and health departments. The local communities still choose their board of health but there will be a mandate and funds to hire professional public health staff. The bill ensures the MA Department of Health has accurate data. This bill ensures an equitable community public health system that works.

LWVMA positions on health support this bill:

LWVMA supports ‘a state and regional health care planning system that will set guidelines for allocation of health care resources in Massachusetts’ (also ‘improving access to health care by removing geographic...barriers’ ‘an affordable healthcare system that provides equal access to quality health care for all’ and ‘consumer education on maintaining health’) see [Where We Stand](#), Healthcare, page 48.