

## **H.4159 - Resolve creating a task force on sexual misconduct climate surveys for colleges and universities in Massachusetts**

What this does:

- Creates a task force to develop a model sexual misconduct climate survey by end of 2018
- Requires colleges and universities in Massachusetts to administer a sexual misconduct climate survey, either the model one or their own
- Requires results to be posted within 120 days of the survey completion

Why this is important:

- Sexual misconduct climate surveys give colleges and universities more data and information on what their students need, helping inform the necessary actions to make progress in tackling sexual misconduct on campus.
- The task force's model survey will lower the costs for colleges to administer a survey since they no longer have to write and test their own

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## **S.2203 - An Act relative to sexual violence on higher education campuses**

What this does (much of this is similar to old federal Title IX guidance):

- Requires colleges and universities adopt a policy on sexual misconduct that must be sent out to students, faculty, and staff every year
  - The policy must clearly outline the procedures for resolution and it must ensure the rights of both the accused and accuser
- Requires colleges and universities to give sexual misconduct training to all new students and employees
- Requires colleges and universities to give additional reporting options, including anonymous options and off-campus alternatives
- Requires colleges and universities to provide protections to witnesses that help with an investigation
- Contains numerous other requirements that aim to improve the way colleges and universities handle sexual misconduct

Why this is important:

- Holds colleges and universities to a minimum acceptable standard on:
  - Training and educating incoming students and employees
  - How the college/university deals with instances of sexual misconduct
- Anonymous and off-campus alternatives reduce the barrier to reporting instances, helping get more instances of sexual misconduct resolved