

SUMMARY OF NO. 23-33

This proposed law would require that public school students receive instruction in public health and epidemiology. The comprehensive public health and epidemiology curriculum would include instruction for K-12 students in the study of disease patterns and risk factors, the causes and origins of diseases, and strategies and measures aimed at preventing the spread of diseases, including vaccination and hygiene practices. The new educational standards would replace the requirement that K-12 students receive instruction in the issues of nutrition and exercise.

The proposed law would establish a commission to develop new public health and epidemiology educational standards. The commission would be chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health. The new commission would be required to provide support for teacher training and professional development, and to develop resources for classroom education in public health and epidemiology.

The proposed law would not require MCAS testing for the new public health and epidemiology educational standards.