

SENATE No. 994

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sal N. DiDomenico

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act prohibiting discrimination based on natural hairstyles.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/26/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>

SENATE No. 994

By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 994) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Patricia D. Jehlen, Joanne M. Comerford and Walter F. Timilty for legislation to prohibit discrimination based on natural hairstyles. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4295 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act prohibiting discrimination based on natural hairstyles.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following:-

3 "Sixty-second, "Natural hairstyle", shall mean hair texture, hair type and protective
4 hairstyles, which shall include, but not be limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks,
5 twists and other formations."

6 SECTION 2. Section 32 of chapter 22C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
7 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "racial", in line 12, the following
8 words:- , natural hairstyle.

9 SECTION 3. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
10 section 1C, as so appearing, the following section:-

11 Section 1D. No school district, school committee, public school or nonsectarian school
12 shall adopt or implement a policy or code that impairs or prohibits natural hairstyles.

13 The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide written guidance
14 for the administration of this section.

15 SECTION 4. Section 37O of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
16 inserting after the word “color”, in line 137, the following words:- , natural hairstyle.

17 SECTION 5. Section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
18 inserting after the word “color”, in lines 98 and 348, in each instance, the following words:- ,
19 natural hairstyle.

20 SECTION 6. Section 5 of chapter 76 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
21 amended by inserting after the word “color”, in line 11, the following words:-, natural hairstyle.

22 SECTION 7. Section 12B of said chapter 76, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
23 inserting after the word “color”, in line 195, the following words:- , natural hairstyle.

24 SECTION 8. Section 3 of chapter 151B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
25 amended by inserting after the word “color”, in lines 17 and 63, in each instance, the following
26 words:- , natural hairstyle.

27 SECTION 9. Section 4 of said chapter 151B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
28 inserting after the word “color”, in lines 3, 186, 201, 209, 220, 229, 263, 291, 298, 308, 358, 366,

29 376, 477, 487, 492, 499, 633, 643, 821 and 830, in each instance, the following words:- , natural
30 hairstyle.

31 SECTION 10. Section 39 of chapter 265 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
32 amended by inserting after the word “color”, in line 3, the following words:- , natural hairstyle.

33 SECTION 11. Section 92A of chapter 272 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
34 hereby amended by inserting after the word “color”, in line 9, the following words:- , natural
35 hairstyle.

36 SECTION 12. Section 98 of said chapter 272, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
37 inserting after the word “color”, in line 2, the following words:- , natural hairstyle.

38 SECTION 13. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination shall adopt,
39 promulgate, amend and rescind rules and regulations or formulate policies and make
40 recommendations to effectuate the purposes of sections 4 to 9.