

THE COALITION FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CIVIL RIGHTS

State House, P.O.Box 206

Boston, Mass. 02133

828-3039

THE GAY AND LESBIAN STUDENTS RIGHTS BILL

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

H. 3353, "An Act to Prohibit Discrimination Against Students in Public Schools on the Basis of Sexual Orientation" would protect gay and lesbian students against discrimination in admission to any public school or access to school courses and school activities.

H.3353 adds the phrase "sexual orientation" to the current list of categories protecting students against discrimination.

Massachusetts law(chapter 5 of chapter 76 of the General Laws), currently protects students from discrimination in public schools on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, and national origin. **This bill would add sexual orientation to these categories.**

HOUSE AND SENATE SPONSORS

H. 3353 was filed by the **Student Advisory Council**, a statewide network of over 700 students. **The Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights** has actively worked for passage of this bill as well.

The Gay and Lesbian Students Rights Bill has strong support in both branches of the Massachusetts legislature. **Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston)** is the chief sponsor in the House. There are a total of thirty-three co-sponsors in the House. **Senator Robert Havern(D-Arlington)** is the lead sponsor in the Senate. There are a total of ten co-sponsors in the Senate.

Governor Weld has pledged to sign the bill into law. The bill is supported by **Education Commissioner Robert Antonucci**, Secretary of Education **Piedad Robertson**, and **Michael Duffy**, Chair of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.