

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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 to increase access to disposable menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters, and public schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>1/18/2019</i>

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to increase access to disposable menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters, and public schools.

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. Chapter 126 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 21 the following section:-

3 Section 21A. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following
4 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5 “Menstruating individuals,” any person who menstruates.

6 “Disposable menstrual products,” products used by menstruating individuals including,
7 but not limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons, and underwear liners.

8 “Chief administrator,” the superintendent of a state prison facility under the jurisdiction
9 of the department of correction, the sheriff or special sheriff in charge of a jail, house of
10 correction or regional lock-up facility, the chief of police of a city or town, the colonel of the
11 state police, or the director of any other facility used for the detention of persons arrested and
12 held in custody or serving a sentence.

13 Section 21B. Disposable menstrual products shall be provided at no cost to individuals
14 who menstruate and who are housed in state prison facilities and county jails and houses of
15 correction used for the general confinement of individuals and in any other state or local facility
16 where menstruating individuals are detained or confined by law enforcement agencies.

17 The chief administrator of a state prison, jail, house of correction or other holding facility
18 shall work to ensure that such products shall be available in a convenient manner that does not
19 stigmatize any persons seeking such products.

20 SECTION 2. Chapter 121F is hereby amended by inserting after section 3 the following
21 section:-

22 Section 3A. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following
23 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

24 “Menstruating individuals,” any person who menstruates.

25 “Disposable menstrual products,” products used by menstruating individuals including,
26 but not limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons, and underwear liners.

27 Section 3B. Any provider of temporary housing assistance, which shall include but not be
28 limited to, a family shelter, a shelter for adults, a hotel used for emergency shelter, an emergency
29 apartment, a domestic violence shelter, a runaway and homeless youth shelter, or a safe house for
30 refugees, shall be required to provide disposable menstrual products, including but not limited to,
31 sanitary napkins, tampons, and panty liners, at no cost to menstruating individuals. Such
32 products shall be available in a convenient manner that does not stigmatize any persons seeking
33 such products.

34 SECTION 3. Chapter 71 is hereby amended by adding, after section 3, the following new
35 section:-

36 Section 3A. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following
37 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

38 “Menstruating individuals,” any person who menstruates.

39 “Disposable menstrual products,” products used by menstruating individuals including,
40 but not limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons, and underwear liners.

41 All schools serving students in any grade from grade six through grade twelve shall
42 provide disposable menstrual products in all restrooms of such school building or buildings for
43 people who menstruate. Such products shall be provided at no charge to students. Such products
44 shall be available in a convenient manner that does not stigmatize any persons seeking such
45 products.