

# SENATE NO. 966

## AN ACT RELATIVE TO GENITAL MUTILIATION

*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. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Massachusetts State Prohibition  
2 of Genital Mutilation Act.”

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 265 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after Section 13L  
4 the following new section:

5 Section 13M: Genital Mutilation; exceptions, penalties, education, preventative and outreach  
6 activities.

7 (a) For the purpose of this section, the term “genital mutilation” shall mean the removal or  
8 cutting or both of the whole or part of the clitoris, labia minora, labia majora, vulva, breast,  
9 nipple, foreskin, glans, testicle, penis, ambiguous genitalia, hermaphroditic genitalia, or any  
10 genital organ.

11 (b) For the purpose of this section, the term “premature forcible retraction of the penile or  
12 clitoral prepuce” shall mean forced retraction of the prepuce from the glans, except to the extent  
13 that the prepuce has already separated from the glans.

14 (c) For the purpose of this section, the term “prepuce” shall mean foreskin.

15 (d) Except as provided in subsection (e), whoever knowingly circumcises, excises, cuts, or  
16 mutilates the whole or any part of the labia majora, labia minora, clitoris, vulva, breast, nipple,  
17 foreskin, glans, testicle, penis, ambiguous genitalia, hermaphroditic genitalia, or genital organs  
18 of another person who has not attained the age of 18 years or on any non-consenting adult; or  
19 whoever prematurely and forcibly retracts the penile or clitoral prepuce of another person who  
20 has not attained the age of 18 years or any non-consenting adult; or whoever knowingly assists  
21 with or facilitates any of these acts; or whoever arranges, plans, aids, abets, counsels, facilitates,  
22 or procures a genital mutilation operation on another person who has not attained the age of 18  
23 years or any non-consenting adult shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 14  
24 years, or both.

25 (e) A surgical operation is not a violation of this section if the operation is (1) performed on  
26 a person who has not attained the age of 18 years and is necessary to the physical health of the  
27 person on whom it is performed because of a clear, compelling and immediate medical need  
28 with no less-destructive alternative treatment available, and is performed in a properly licensed  
29 facility by a person licensed as a medical practitioner in the place of its performance; (2)  
30 performed on an adult who is physically unable to give consent and there is a clear, compelling,  
31 and immediate medical need with no less-destructive alternative treatment available, and is  
32 performed in a properly licensed facility by a person licensed as a medical practitioner in the  
33 place of its performance; or (3) performed on a person in labor or who has just given birth, and  
34 is performed for medical purposes connected with that labor or birth because of a clear,  
35 compelling, and immediate medical need with no less-destructive alternative treatment  
36 available, and is performed in a properly licensed facility by a person licensed as a medical

37 practitioner in the place of its performance, by a midwife or person in training to become such a  
38 medical practitioner or midwife.

39 (f) In applying subsection (e) no account shall be taken of the effect on the person on whom  
40 the operation is to be performed of any belief on the part of that or any other person that the  
41 operation is required as a matter of custom or ritual.

42 (g) The Department of Public Health, in consultation with appropriate state and federal  
43 agencies or departments shall establish and implement appropriate education, preventative and  
44 outreach activities focusing on, but not limited to: the new immigrant populations that  
45 traditionally practice female genital mutilation, hospitals that traditionally practice male and  
46 intersex genital mutilation, and religious groups that traditionally practice male genital  
47 mutilation, for the purpose of informing members of those communities of the health risks and  
48 emotional trauma inflicted by this practice and informing those communities and the medical  
49 community of the prohibition and ramifications of this Act.