



### **The Hazing Act**

Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 269  
Sections 17 through 19 (November 26, 1985)  
As amended by Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1987  
(January 5, 1988)

### **Attested Acknowledgement**

The Hazing Act (a true copy which is provided with this acknowledgement) requires:

1. Each group, team or organization to distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership.
2. Each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such a group, team, or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen; and
3. Each such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

| \_\_\_\_\_ (Club Advisor/Head \Coach) and

| \_\_\_\_\_ (Club President/Team Captain)

do hereby attest and acknowledge that we have complied in full with the provisions of the Hazing Act as set out by the above items stipulated in section 19 of the Act, and that this form serves as the required attested acknowledgment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Club/Organization/Team)

Club Advisor/Head Coach Signature:

Club President/Team Captain Signature:

## The Hazing Act

Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 269

Sections 17 through 19 (November 26, 1985)

As amended by Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1987 (January 5, 1988)

This is a true copy of sections 17, 18, and 19 of the Hazing Act to be provided to each MassBay student in accordance with the law.

**Section 17:** hazing; organizing or participating; hazing defined: Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

### **Section 18. Failure to Report Hazing**

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

**Section 19.** Copy of sections 17-19; Issuance to students and student groups, teams and organizations; report Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirement that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgment stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of regents and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report .