

# STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

*The Minority Leader's Daily Press Clips*  
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## **Senate teeing up sex ed, mental health bills**

Legislation governing sexual education in schools and mental health education in high schools is being polled through a key Senate panel Thursday, usually an indication that floor votes won't be far behind.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee has asked its members to vote on the sex ed bill (S 2071), which was recommended by the Education Committee and is based on legislation sponsored by Sen. Sal DiDomenico.

The bill, "An Act Relative to Healthy Youth," requires that each school district or public school that offers sex health education to provide "medically accurate, age-appropriate education." The bill defines age-appropriate as "topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group."

The mental health bill, sponsored by Sen. Jennifer Flanagan, states "all public high schools in the commonwealth may incorporate an optional mental health promotion component to the Massachusetts comprehensive health education curriculum for public high school students." The bill's House sponsors include Reps Kay Khan of Newton, Danielle Gregoire of Marlborough, and **Hannah Kane** of Shrewsbury.

The Education Committee vetted the mental health bill and gave it a favorable recommendation in May.

-By Michael P. Norton, State House News Service