Campus Climate Survey

Sexual assault in higher education is a pervasive problem, and the lack of reliable data makes it more difficult to understand. The Campus Climate Survey bill (S.736, H.1208) mandates that colleges and universities conduct a standard sexual misconduct climate survey.

What it does

- Requires all colleges and universities in Massachusetts to conduct an anonymous biennial sexual misconduct survey of all students.
- Establishes a Task Force on Sexual Misconduct Surveys and mandates that the task force create a model climate survey based on evidence-based best practice.
- Requires the Department of Education to create and maintain to establish and maintain a data repository for all survey summaries submitted by colleges and universities.

Why it matters

- Sexual assault and harassment are severely underreported. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that less than 10% of survivors reported the assault to authorities. The option to share their experience anonymously will enable more survivors to have their voices heard.
- The lack of accurate data makes it difficult to address campus sexual assault and harassment at the scope and level needed to make sustainable change. Low reported numbers also provide campus communities with a false sense of security. Accurate data will support more effective campus practices and policies to prevent and respond to sexual assault and harassment.
- Campus climate surveys will serve as a means to provide critical information related to services and referrals for students.