

VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 536 –HAZING

The following statute regarding hazing was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature. Chapter 269 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following three sections:

"Section 17. Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one hundred days, or 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 weather, forced consumption of food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity that is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student.

Section 18. 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 five hundred dollars.

Section 19. Each secondary school and each public and private school or college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operating on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. An officer of each such group or organization, and each individual receiving a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen shall sign an acknowledgment stating that such group, organization, or individual has received a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen."

Disciplinary Action

Any student found involved as an organizer or as a participant in a hazing action will be immediately suspended from school for a period of ten days and/or recommended for exclusion from Medford High School to the Headmaster. Any student who is a witness to a hazing incident on school property or at a school event held at any location but who fails to report such an incident to school officials shall be subject to disciplinary action, including Level 1 or Level II Suspension and/or social probation.