

The Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law



SENATE BILL 1090

The Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law (Senate Bill 1090) is wide-ranging antihazing legislation that addresses prevention, enforcement and transparency. The proposed bill is the product of a number of meetings with many stakeholders and is designed to help prevent tragic deaths like Tim's from ever happening again.

The bill as proposed:

Creates **tiers for hazing**, which is a summary offense unless:

- The hazing resulted in bodily injury = Third-degree misdemeanor.
 - Can include fines of up to \$2,500
 - Can include imprisonment of up to one year
- The hazing resulted in serious bodily injury or death = Third-degree felony.
 - Can include fines of up to \$15,000
 - Can include imprisonment of up to 7 years

Creates category of **Organizational Hazing**:

- Defines organizations as groups such as a fraternity, sorority, society, club, association whose members are primarily students or alumni of the organization.
- The organization would be held to the above hazing tiers if the organization intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes hazing.
- The court also could direct the organization to forfeit any property which was involved in the violation for which the defendant was convicted in addition to any other sentence permissible by law.

Creates category of **Institutional Hazing**:

- Defines institutions as places within the Commonwealth that grant associate or higher academic degrees.
- Hazing offenses by an institution would be punishable with a fine of up to \$5,000.
- Aggravated hazing by an institution would be punishable with a fine of up to \$15,000.

Other provisions:

- Institutions and high schools must:
 - Adopt a written policy against hazing and rules prohibiting students or others associated with a sanctioned organization from engaging in hazing.
 - Provide a copy of the policy, including the rules, to all organizations within the institution or secondary school, and post them to their publicly accessible website.
 - Have a program for enforcing the policy and penalties for violations of the policy such as invoking fines; withholding diplomas or transcripts; revoking recognition of the organization; imposing probation, suspension, dismissal or expulsion.
 - Maintain a report of all violations of the institution's antihazing policy or State or Federal laws related to hazing.
 - Establishes safe-harbor criteria that will protect someone from prosecution for involvement in a hazing incident if they are seeking assistance for someone in need of help.