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Amherst bylaw looks to quiet off-campus partiers

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Walczak was on the committee created by the Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce High-Risk Drinking (CCC) which brought the bylaw to the Amherst Town Meeting, where it passed in the spring.

He said the group also included the town manager of Hadley, where a similar law passed in May went into effect several weeks ago, and a resident of Sunset Avenue, where noise complaints have been of particular concern.

The Police and Public Health departments were also represented, yet no students were ever involved in the process despite multiple invitations, according to Kent and Walczak. Both said it was unfortunate to not have any student participation.

"There was a lot of work put into this," said Walczak noting the CCC's two years of study and research into similar laws in college communities around the U.S.

Despite the committee's efforts, several students were not optimistic that off-campus behavior will change.

"People always find a way around it," said Sabrina Seiderman, a UMass freshman living in John Adams.

Freshman Sebastian Pokora who lives in Kennedy and plans to attend parties off-campus agreed.

"It's not going to stop me," he said. "I'll just have to have an escape plan."

Though not confident in the bylaw's effectiveness, Tim Keefe, an on-campus sophomore said, "It would kind of suck to have to pay $300."

If the law goes into effect, residents will be notified, including the UMass community and landlords, according to Kent.

The "Nuisance House" bylaw would then become the fourth bylaw aimed at curbing excessive partying in Amherst, joining the "Keg Licensing" bylaw, the "Open Container" bylaw, and the "Unlawful Noise" bylaw.

Kamins Real Estate, the owners of The Townhouses, Presidential, Crestview, Colonial Village, College Inn, Lantern Court and Mill Hollow declined to comment on the bylaw.

Lincoln Realty, who manages some rental property on Hobart Lane, was not available for comment.

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POLL

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