

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 463**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**James M. Murphy (BY REQUEST)**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

**An Act Concerning Genocide Education.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James M. Murphy	4th Norfolk
Garrett J. Bradley	3rd Plymouth

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT CONCERNING GENOCIDE EDUCATION.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 65 the  
2 following:

3 Whereas, genocide is an integral and fundamental piece of history, and whereas a cohesive understanding  
4 of the underlying causes, progression, international response, and aftermath of the major genocides of this  
5 past century contribute to a heightened global conscience and equip students with the knowledge and  
6 capacity to prevent future atrocities and crimes against humanity, the origin, and the definition and  
7 concept of genocide as it applies to past and present atrocities, shall be a required area of study in  
8 the Massachusetts Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks for United States and world history. Case  
9 studies of any one such genocide may be used to demonstrate the concept of genocide. Such case studies  
10 may include, but are not limited to, the genocide of Armenian Christians, The Holocaust and the Nazi  
11 concentration camps, the genocide of Cambodians by the Khmer Rouge, the genocide of Bosnian  
12 Muslims, the genocide of Rwandan Tutsis and the genocide of Darfurians by the Sudanese government.

13 The Massachusetts Department of Primary and Secondary Education shall be required to provide  
14 adequate curricular materials detailing the underlying causes, international reaction, progression, and  
15 aftermath of the aforementioned genocides.

16 The Commonwealth shall appropriate funding of not less than \$50,000 per year for classroom programs,  
17 as well as trainings, seminars, conferences, and materials for educators to utilize in the teaching of  
18 genocide. Such programs, trainings, seminars, and conferences may include, but shall not be limited to  
19 those programs organized by Facing History and Ourselves, the Children's Movement for Creative  
20 Education or other such organizations which seek to bring about humanitarian involvement and  
21 awareness through education.