

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1973**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Michael J. Rodrigues***

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act advancing and promoting genocide education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	<i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Joseph A. Boncore</i>	<i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>

<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/27/2021</i>
<i>Steven C. Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>John Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>4/6/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>4/11/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/11/2021</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/11/2021</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/11/2021</i>
<i>Edward R. Philips</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	<i>4/11/2021</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1973**

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By Mr. Rodrigues, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1973) of Michael J. Rodrigues, Jason M. Lewis, Joan B. Lovely, Joanne M. Comerford and other members of the Senate for legislation to advance and promote genocide education. Revenue.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act advancing and promoting 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 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 2HHHHH the following section:-

3 Section 2IIII. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the  
4 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5 “Community-based organization”, a public or private non-profit organization that is  
6 representative of a community or significant segments of a community and that provides  
7 educational or related services to individuals in the community.

8 “Genocide”, at least 1 of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in  
9 whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, including, but not limited to: (i)  
10 killing members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group; (ii) causing serious bodily or  
11 mental harm to members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group; (iii) deliberately  
12 inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction, in whole or in part,

13 on a national, ethnic, racial or religious group; (iv) imposing measures intended to prevent births  
14 within a national, ethnic, racial or religious group; or (v) forcibly transferring children of a  
15 national, ethnic, racial or religious group to another national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

16 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate  
17 fund to be known as the Genocide Education Trust Fund for the purpose of educating middle and  
18 high school students on the history of genocide. The commissioner of elementary and secondary  
19 education shall administer the fund to assist in promoting the teaching of human rights issues in  
20 all public schools and school districts, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of  
21 genocide. There shall be credited to the fund: (i) revenue from appropriations and other money  
22 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) interest  
23 earned on such revenue and money; (iii) funds from public and private sources such as gifts,  
24 grants and donations to further genocide education; and (iv) fines paid to the General Fund for a  
25 hate crime or civil rights violation pursuant to sections 37 and 39 of chapter 265. Amounts  
26 credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation, and any money remaining in the  
27 fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

28 (c) Amounts credited to the fund may be expended, without further appropriation, by the  
29 commissioner for purposes related to the instruction of middle and high school students on the  
30 history of genocide, including, but not limited to: (i) development of curricular materials  
31 detailing the underlying causes, international reaction, progression and aftermath of genocide;  
32 and (ii) professional development training, including the provision of trainings, seminars,  
33 conferences and materials, for educators to use in the teaching of genocide. Annually, not less  
34 than 50 per cent of the funds expended shall be allocated to public schools or school districts.

35 In expending amounts credited to the fund, the commissioner may prioritize: (i)  
36 underserved communities across the commonwealth, including those public schools or school  
37 districts with high concentrations of economically disadvantaged students; (ii) communities that  
38 have experienced an incident motivated by racial, ethnic or religious bias; and (iii) schools  
39 implementing a genocide education program for the first time consistent with the standards set  
40 by the department of elementary and secondary education.

41 (d) Amounts received from private sources shall be approved by the commissioner of  
42 elementary and secondary education and subject to review before being deposited in the fund to  
43 ensure that pledged funds are not accompanied by conditions, explicit or implicit, on the  
44 implementation of genocide education programming that may be detrimental to the neutral and  
45 rigorous teaching of the history of genocide or unduly influence the direction of genocide  
46 education policy. The review shall be made publicly available on the department's website.

47 (e) There shall be a competitive grant program developed and administered by the  
48 department of elementary and secondary education for all public schools and school districts.  
49 The department may expend funds from the fund for this grant program.

50 The department may give preference to grant applications that include: (i) input from  
51 relevant community stakeholders, including, but not limited to, local officials, municipal human  
52 rights commissions and community-based organizations; or (ii) plans to partner with community-  
53 based organizations or otherwise engage with the applicant's local community.

54 The department may provide funds and other resources to public schools and school  
55 districts as needed to ensure that every public school and school district has the opportunity to  
56 apply for grants.

57 (f) Annually, not later than October 1, the commissioner of elementary and secondary  
58 education shall report to the clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the joint committee  
59 on education and the house and senate committees on ways and means on the fund's activities.  
60 The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the source and amount of funds received; (ii)  
61 the expenditures made from the fund and the purposes of such expenditures; (iii) any grants  
62 provided to institutions of higher education and other stakeholder organizations; (iv) anticipated  
63 revenue and expenditure projections for the next fiscal year; (v) the number of schools and  
64 school districts that have implemented a new genocide education program using funds from the  
65 fund; (vi) the number of schools and school districts that have used the fund to enhance or  
66 maintain current programming; (vii) the number of schools and school districts that applied for,  
67 but were not granted, funding; and (viii) the number of schools and school districts that have not  
68 applied for funding and do not have a genocide education program in place. The report shall be  
69 publicly available on the department's website.

70 SECTION 2. The fifteenth paragraph of section 11 of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as  
71 appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out clauses (k) and (l) and  
72 inserting in place thereof the following 3 clauses:-

73 (k) global education;

74 (l) nutrition and wellness programs; and

75 (m) genocide education programs.

76 SECTION 3. Said section 11 of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further  
77 amended by inserting after the fifteenth paragraph the following paragraph:-

78           Annually, not later than October 1, the commissioner shall provide a report on the  
79 progress of genocide education programs to the clerks of the house of representatives and senate  
80 and the joint committee on education. The report shall provide a description of the manner in  
81 which school entities are offering genocide instruction, including: (i) the number of hours of  
82 instruction offered; (ii) the grade levels at which such instruction is offered; and (iii) the title and  
83 description of the course in which such instruction is integrated.

84           SECTION 4. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
85 section:-

86           Section 98. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following  
87 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

88           “Community-based organization”, a public or private non-profit organization that is  
89 representative of a community or significant segments of a community and that provides  
90 educational or related services to individuals in the community.

91           “Genocide”, at least 1 of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in  
92 whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, including, but not limited to: (i)  
93 killing members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group; (ii) causing serious bodily or  
94 mental harm to members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group; (iii) deliberately  
95 inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction, in whole or in part,  
96 on a national, ethnic, racial or religious group; (iv) imposing measures intended to prevent births  
97 within a national, ethnic, racial or religious group; or (v) forcibly transferring children of a  
98 national, ethnic, racial or religious group to another national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

99 (b) Every school district shall for the purpose of educating middle and high school  
100 students include in its curriculum a unit of instruction on the history of genocide utilizing, but  
101 not being limited to, the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework  
102 disseminated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; provided, however,  
103 that a school district may partner with a community-based organization, including municipal  
104 human rights commissions and other relevant community stakeholders, to implement genocide  
105 education programming for the purpose of educating middle and high school students on the  
106 history of genocide.

107 (c) Acts of genocide across the globe shall be taught consistent within the curriculum  
108 frameworks to (i) promote the teaching of human rights issues in all public schools and school  
109 districts, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide; (ii) address the  
110 notion that national, ethnic, racial, or religious hatred can overtake any nation or society, leading  
111 to calamitous consequences; and (iii) reaffirm the commitment of free peoples from all nations to  
112 never again permit the occurrence of another genocide and a recognition that crimes of genocide  
113 continue to be perpetrated across the globe as they have been in the past, and to deter  
114 indifference to crimes against humanity and human suffering wherever they may occur.

115 (d) The department shall recommend: (i) development of curricular materials detailing  
116 the underlying causes, international reaction, progression and aftermath of genocide; and (ii)  
117 professional development training, including the provision of trainings, seminars, conferences  
118 and materials, for educators to use in the teaching of genocide.

119 (e) Nothing herein shall require school districts to require genocide instruction in every  
120 year of middle school and high school; provided, however, that genocide education and



121 instruction shall be utilized during appropriate times in the middle school and/or high school  
122 curricula, as determined by the local school district. All students shall have received instruction  
123 on genocide by the time they have graduated from high school.

124           The department may provide trainings, seminars, conferences and materials for educators  
125 and community-based organizations to use in the teaching of genocide in person or through the  
126 use of synchronous or asynchronous audio, video, electronic media or other telecommunications  
127 technology.

128           SECTION 5. Section 4 shall take effect for the school year beginning on or after July 1,  
129 2022.