

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2186**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Nick Collins*

*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 to protect Native American heritage.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	<i>1/23/2023</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/17/2023</i>

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By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2186) of Nick Collins, Liz Miranda, Joanne M. Comerford, Jack Patrick Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to protect Native American heritage. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 2240 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act to protect Native American heritage.

*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. As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
2 otherwise requires, have the following meanings:-

3 "Native American" as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation  
4 Act in accordance with 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.

5 "funerary objects" as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation  
6 Act in accordance with 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.

7 "sacred objects" as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation  
8 Act in accordance with 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.

9 "objects of cultural patrimony" as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and  
10 Repatriation Act in accordance with 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.

11 SECTION 2. The penalties and requirements of the Native American Graves Protection  
12 and Repatriation Act in accordance with 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq. shall be enforced if an agency,  
13 organization, entity, or department receiving funds of any kind from the Commonwealth or any  
14 local government therein; or a trust, unincorporated association, nonprofit corporation organized  
15 under Chapter 180 of the Massachusetts General laws or public charity duly registered with the  
16 Office of the Attorney General moves to deacquisition any Native American funerary objects,  
17 human remains, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony.