

SENATE No. 2253

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)
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SENATE, Thursday, April 28, 2016

The committee on Education to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 249) of Harriette L. Chandler, Louis L. Kafka and Mary S. Keefe for legislation to involve youth in civic engagement and 332) of Michael F. Rush, Michael O. Moore, Paul McMurtry, Jason M. Lewis and others for legislation to involve youth in civic engagement,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2253).

For the committee,
Sonia Chang-Diaz

SENATE No. 2253

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act to involve youth in civic engagement.

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. The department of elementary and secondary education, in collaboration
2 with a youth advisory committee, as set forth in section 2 of this act, shall develop one or more
3 model curriculum units which shall align with the history/social science curriculum framework
4 and address the following topics: the function and composition of the branches of local, state,
5 and federal government, the history of social movements, current events, and community-based
6 action and service-learning projects. The model curriculum shall include an experiential or
7 practical unit, which can include a weekend program, a model United Nations, or other such
8 program promoting civic engagement, and it shall conclude with a voter registration drive;
9 provided that said unit may be offered as an extra-curricular or out of school time activity. The
10 model curriculum units for the Teaching and Learning System shall be developed no later than
11 July 1, 2017. The department shall create an evaluation assessing the curriculum, pedagogy and
12 teaching materials before piloting this course, unit, or program.

13 SECTION 2. There shall be a youth advisory committee consisting of 2 members of the
14 Governor’s Youth Council, 2 members of the State Student Advisory Council, 1 member of the

15 Special Commission on Civic Engagement and Learning, and 2 members of Teens Leading The
16 Way. The department shall consult with the youth advisory committee in the development,
17 review, enhancement, and evaluation of the model curriculum units. The involvement of the
18 youth advisory committee by the department shall coincide with the department's timeline for
19 developing model curriculum units in the history and social science framework.

20 SECTION 3. Any school implementing a model curriculum unit as described in Section 1
21 of this act shall be considered to have fulfilled its obligation relative to civics education as
22 prescribed in Section 2 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws.