

SENATE No. 2454

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, July 21, 2016

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill to involve youth in civic engagement,-- reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2454).

For the committee,
Karen E. Spilka

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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 the youth advisory committee established in section 2, shall develop not less than 1 civic
3 education model curriculum unit to align with the history and social science curriculum
4 framework and shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics: (i) the function and
5 composition of the branches of local, state and federal government; (ii) the history of social
6 movements; (iii) current events; and (iv) community-based action and service learning projects.
7 The model curriculum shall include an experiential or practical unit, which may include a
8 weekend program, a model United Nations or other program promoting civic engagement and
9 may conclude with a voter registration drive. The experiential or practical unit may be offered as
10 an extra-curricular or out of school activity. The model curriculum units shall be developed not
11 later than July 1, 2017. The department shall develop an evaluation process to assess the
12 curriculum, pedagogy and teaching materials during the piloting of a course, unit or program
13 established through a civic education model curriculum unit.

14 SECTION 2. There shall be a youth advisory committee consisting of: 2 members of the
15 governor's youth council; 2 members of the student advisory council established in section 1E of
16 chapter 15; and 2 members of Teens Leading The Way. The department of elementary and
17 secondary education shall consult with the youth advisory committee on the development,
18 review, enhancement and evaluation of the civic education model curriculum units. The
19 involvement of the youth advisory committee by the department shall coincide with the
20 department's timeline for developing civic education model curriculum units.

21 SECTION 3. A school implementing a model civic education curriculum unit shall be
22 considered to have fulfilled its obligation relative to civics education pursuant to section 2 of
23 chapter 71 of the General Laws.