

SENATE No. 365

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 relative to anti-racism, equity and justice in education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/23/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/7/2021</i>

SENATE No. 365

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 365) of Jason M. Lewis, James B. Eldridge, Joanne M. Comerford and Jack Patrick Lewis for legislation relative to anti-racism, equity and justice in education. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to anti-racism, equity and justice in 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 Whereas, the events of 2020 including the Covid-19 Pandemic and the murder of George
2 Floyd have elucidated the emergent nature of the social, economic and health disparities caused
3 by racial inequity, including but not limited to: police brutality, profiling and murders of Black
4 and brown people, anti-Asian violence, vast inequity in health care access and job safety during
5 the pandemic - and the ensuing unnecessary deaths. Whereas the insurrection of January 6, 2021
6 revealed the imminent danger posed by rampant disinformation and white supremacy to the
7 safety and integrity of our nation. Whereas racial educational disparities and white-centric
8 history have fostered lies, systemic inequality and outright violence, it is in the best interest of
9 the Commonwealth that education in dismantling racism be taught to all students, that teachers
10 and school counselors be trained in pedagogy and practices that uplift students of all ethnicities
11 and backgrounds, that truth and reconciliation regarding slavery, genocide, land theft and
12 systemic racism is centered, that students of color and students from immigrant and indigenous
13 communities may find their rightful place reflected in the history they learn, and that all

14 Massachusetts students are given the chance to develop into informed, engaged members of
15 society.

16 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
17 section 2FFFFF the following section:-

18 Section 2GGGGG. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the
19 Commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Anti-Racism and Equity in Education Trust
20 Fund. The fund shall be administered by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary
21 Education through consultation and recommendation by the Commission for Anti-Racism and
22 Equity in Education. The fund shall be credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other
23 money authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii)
24 interest earned on such revenues; and (iii) funds from public and private) sources such as gifts,
25 grants and donations to further civics and history education and professional development.
26 Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and any money
27 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund. No
28 expenditure made from the fund shall cause the fund to become deficient at any point.

29 SECTION 2. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
30 section 1Q the following section:-

31 Section 1R. (a) There shall be a Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education
32 which shall consist of the following members: 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts
33 Teachers Association; 1 member appointed by the American Federation of Teachers of
34 Massachusetts; 1 member appointed by the Boston Teachers Union; 1 member appointed by the
35 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; 1 member appointed by the

36 Massachusetts Association of School Committees; 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts
37 Commission on Indian Affairs; 1 member appointed by the the Collaborative of Asian American,
38 Native American, Latino and African American Institutes of the University of Massachusetts
39 Boston; 1 member appointed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts; 1 member
40 appointed by the North American Indian Center of Boston; 1 member appointed by the NAACP,
41 Boston Branch; 1 member appointed by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater
42 Boston; 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Community Action Network; 1 member
43 appointed by the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance; 1 member appointed by the
44 Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth; 1 member appointed by the Cape Verdean
45 Association of Boston; 1 member appointed by the Asian American Commission; and 1 member
46 appointed by the Parents Union of Massachusetts.

47 (b) The Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education shall work with the
48 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in identifying, analyzing and making
49 recommendations to:

50 (i) Develop curriculum materials with a social justice perspective of dismantling racism
51 and to advise the department on improving the history and social sciences framework.

52 (ii) Ensure that ethnic studies, racial justice, decolonizing history, and unlearning racism
53 is taught at all grade levels using a critical approach and pedagogy that is age-appropriate.

54 (iii) Advise the department on ways to ensure equity in the Massachusetts Test for
55 Education Licensure; and

56 (iv) Ensure that teachers and school counselors have access to professional development
57 that fosters equitable, inclusive curriculum and pedagogy and practices that support racial justice.

58 (c) The Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education shall advise the
59 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on how best to support and promote efforts
60 to increase, support and retain teachers and school counselors of color in our public school
61 workforce.

62 (d) There shall be a Anti-Racism and Equity in Education grant program developed and
63 administered by the Commissioner in collaboration with the Commission for Anti-Racism and
64 Equity in Education for all public schools and school districts to promote racial equity and racial
65 and ethnic studies within and across school districts. The Commissioner, working with the
66 Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education, may expend funds from the Anti-Racism
67 and Equity in Education Trust Fund, hereinafter the trust fund, established in section 2GGGGG
68 of chapter 29 for these grant programs and allocations. All grant applications shall include: (i) a
69 statement of the prospective curriculum or program and the expected impact; (ii) a preliminary
70 estimate of the cost; and (iii) a mechanism for determining how the proposal may be effectively
71 replicated.

72 The Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education and the Commissioner shall,
73 from time to time, review and make recommendations on the improvement of the design,
74 oversight or implementation of the grant program.

75 The Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education may receive and consider
76 reports and input from expert individuals, educators, school administrators, school counselors,
77 parents, community-based organizations, voluntary education organizations and other relevant
78 public and private organizations recognized as having expertise consistent with this section.

79 The Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education may facilitate funds and other
80 resources to districts, universities, and community groups. Programs eligible for these grants
81 would require funds for work in these categories: (i) professional development training; (ii) for
82 the review of current curricula and standards through a lens of dismantling racism; (iii) for the
83 development of educational materials; (iv) for the collaboration with institutions of higher
84 education and other stakeholder organizations; and (v) to ensure that every public school and
85 school district has the opportunity to apply for grants.

86 (e) Public schools and school districts awarded funds pursuant to this section shall work
87 with the Commissioner and the Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education to:

88 (I) analyze the effectiveness of their initiatives;

89 (ii) analyze the social studies and history curricula and framework through a lens of racial
90 justice; and

91 (iii) amend the social studies and history curricula and framework.

92 (f) Money in the trust fund may be used to support the replication of effective practices
93 and the dissemination of best practices generated through the competitive grant program.

94 (h) Annually, not later than December 1, the Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in
95 Education and the Commissioner shall report to the clerks of the house of representatives and
96 senate, the joint committee on education and the house and senate committees on ways and
97 means on the fund's activity. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the source and
98 amount of funds received; (ii) the amounts distributed and the purpose of expenditures from the
99 fund, including but not limited to, funds expended to assist school districts in meeting the

100 requirements in this section; and (iii) anticipated revenue and expenditure projections for the
101 following year.