HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/5/2009

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**F. Jay Barrows**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act directing the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Richard T. Moore | Worcester and Norfolk |
| Scott P. Brown | Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex |
| Barbara A. L'Italien | 18th Essex |
| Christine E. Canavan | 10th Plymouth |
| Lewis G. Evangelidis | 1st Worcester |
| Stephen L. DiNatale | 3rd Worcester |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act directing the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

**SECTION 1:**  Section 2 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws is amended, in line 7, by inserting after “ … for the duties of citizenship.” The following:

The successful completion of a course in civics shall be mandated as a requirement for all students in order to receive their high school diploma. The department of education shall set guidelines for all school districts relative to the implementation of the civics course. At minimum, the course must educate students in the following criteria:

1. Composition of local, state, and federal government
2. Function of the branches of local, state, and federal government
3. Responsibilities and duties as an American citizen
4. Opportunities for voter participation
5. Exposure to current events and identification of government officials

**SECTION 2:** The department shall take all reasonable efforts to accomplish the establishment of necessary regulations by May 1, 2010, in order that the provisions of this act may be implemented in the following school year.