

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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:

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

3

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

8

- 9 a.) Composition of local, state, and federal government
10 b.) Function of the branches of local, state, and federal government
11 c.) Responsibilities and duties as an American citizen
12 d.) Opportunities for voter participation
13 e.) Exposure to current events and identification of government officials
14

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

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