

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rady Mom

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 instruction on the Cambodian and Vietnamese American refugee experience, Cambodian genocide and the history and culture of the Hmong people.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>12/28/2023</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>1/2/2024</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/4/2024</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2024</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2024</i>

HOUSE No.

By Representative Mom of Lowell, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Rady Mom, Brendan P. Crighton and James B. Eldridge relative to instruction on the Cambodian and Vietnamese American refugee experience, the Cambodian genocide and the history and culture of the Hmong people. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to instruction on the Cambodian and Vietnamese American refugee experience, Cambodian genocide and the history and culture of the Hmong people.

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. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 100. (a)(1) Every school district shall, for the purpose of educating middle and
4 high school students, provide instruction on the Vietnamese and Cambodian American refugee
5 experience as aligned to, but not limited to, the content standards articulated in the history
6 curriculum framework adopted by the board of elementary and secondary education; provided,
7 however, that a school district may include the incorporation of writings and other media that
8 represents all perspectives of the Vietnamese and Cambodian American refugee experience for
9 the purpose of educating middle and high school students on the refugee experience.

10 (2) Instruction on the Vietnamese and Cambodian American refugee experience shall be
11 taught consistent within the historical curriculum framework to:

12 (i) promote an understanding of the history of the Vietnamese and Cambodian American
13 refugee experience;

14 (ii) address the history of the Fall of Saigon in 1975;

15 (iii) include a history of the Vietnamese boat people and members of the Republic of
16 Vietnam Armed Forces;

17 (iv) address the exodus and the hardships faced by the Vietnamese and Cambodian
18 people attempting to flee who were apprehended by the communist government; and

19 (v) the conditions that led to the resettlement of Vietnamese and Cambodian people in the
20 United States covering the period from the Vietnam War and the Fall of Saigon in 1975 to the
21 year 2000, which captures the experience of postwar Vietnamese and Cambodian immigrants in
22 the United States.

23 (3) The department shall assist schools in providing:

24 (i) instruction on the history of Vietnamese and Cambodian American refugee experience
25 by facilitating access to high-quality curricular materials which addresses all perspectives of the
26 refugee experience, including oral testimony by survivors, rescuers and liberators of the Vietnam
27 War including, but not limited to, Vietnamese and Cambodian American refugees, Vietnamese
28 boat people and members of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces; and

29 (ii) professional development training, including the provision of trainings, seminars,
30 conferences and materials, for educators to use in the teaching of Vietnamese and Cambodian
31 American refugee experience, including in person or through in-person testimony, video or a
32 multimedia option, such as a DVD or an online video.

33 (4) Nothing in this section shall require a school district to require Vietnamese and
34 Cambodian American refugee experience instruction in every year of middle school and high
35 school; provided, however, that Vietnamese and Cambodian American refugee experience
36 education and instruction shall be utilized during appropriate times in middle and high school
37 curricula, as determined by the local school district.

38 (b)(1) Every school district shall, for the purpose of educating middle and high school
39 students, provide instruction on the Cambodian genocide as aligned to, but not limited to, the
40 content standards articulated in the history curriculum framework adopted by the board of
41 elementary and secondary education; provided, however, that a school district may include the
42 incorporation of writings, media, other artistic, cultural and historical artifacts, multigenerational
43 storytelling and oral history that represents the Cambodian genocide for the purpose of educating
44 middle and high school students on the Cambodian genocide.

45 (2) Instruction on the Cambodian genocide shall be taught consistent within the historical
46 curriculum framework to: (i) promote an understanding of the history of the Cambodian
47 genocide; and (ii) address the history and heritage of Cambodian Americans.

48 (3) The department shall assist schools in providing:

49 (i) instruction on the history of the Cambodian genocide by facilitating access to high-
50 quality curricular materials which addresses all perspectives of the Cambodian genocide; and

51 (ii) professional development training, including the provision of trainings, seminars,
52 conferences and materials, for educators to use in the teaching of the Cambodian genocide,
53 including lesson plans, primary source documents, planning resources, teaching strategies and
54 professional development activities.

55 (4) Nothing in this section shall require a school district to require Cambodian genocide
56 instruction in every year of middle school and high school; provided, however, Cambodian
57 genocide education and instruction shall be utilized during appropriate times in middle and high
58 school curricula, as determined by the local school district.

59 (c)(1) Every school district shall, for the purpose of educating middle and high school
60 students, provide instruction on the history and cultural studies of the Hmong people as aligned
61 to, but not limited to, the content standards articulated in the history curriculum framework
62 adopted by the board of elementary and secondary education; provided, however, that a school
63 district may include the incorporation of writings, media, other artistic, cultural and historical
64 artifacts, multigenerational storytelling and oral history that represents the history and cultural of
65 the Hmong people for the purpose of educating middle and high school students on the Hmong
66 people.

67 (2) Instruction on the history and cultural studies of the Hmong people shall be taught
68 consistent within the historical curriculum framework to: (i) promote an understanding of the
69 history of the Hmong people; and (ii) address the history, heritage and culture of the Hmong
70 people.

71 (3) The department shall assist schools in providing:

72 (i) instruction on the history and culture of the Hmong people by facilitating access to
73 high-quality curricular materials which addresses all perspectives of the Hmong people; and

74 (ii) professional development training, including the provision of trainings, seminars,
75 conferences and materials, for educators to use in the teaching of the Hmong people, including

76 lesson plans, primary source documents, planning resources, teaching strategies and professional
77 development activities.

78 (4) Nothing in this section shall require a school district to require the history and cultural
79 studies of the Hmong people instruction in every year of middle school and high school;
80 provided, however, the history and cultural studies of the Hmong people education and
81 instruction shall be utilized during appropriate times in middle and high school curricula, as
82 determined by the local school district.

83 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect for the school year beginning after July 1, 2024.