

HOUSE No. 463

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act Concerning Genocide 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 SECTION 1. Chapter 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 65 the following:

3 Whereas, genocide is an integral and fundamental piece of history, and whereas a
4 cohesive understanding of the underlying causes, progression, international response, and
5 aftermath of the major genocides of this past century contribute to a heightened global
6 conscience and equip students with the knowledge and capacity to prevent future atrocities and
7 crimes against humanity, the origin, and the definition and concept of genocide as it applies to
8 past and present atrocities, shall be a required area of study in the Massachusetts Social Studies
9 Curriculum Frameworks for United States and world history. Case studies of any one such
10 genocide may be used to demonstrate the concept of genocide. Such case studies may include,
11 but are not limited to, the genocide of Armenian Christians, The Holocaust and the Nazi
12 concentration camps, the genocide of Cambodians by the Khmer Rouge, the genocide of Bosnian
13 Muslims, the genocide of Rwandan Tutsis and the genocide of Darfurians by the Sudanese
14 government.

15 The Massachusetts Department of Primary and Secondary Education shall be required to
16 provide adequate curricular materials detailing the underlying causes, international reaction,
17 progression, and aftermath of the aforementioned genocides.

18 The Commonwealth shall appropriate funding of not less than \$50,000 per year for
19 classroom programs, as well as trainings, seminars, conferences, and materials for educators to
20 utilize in the teaching of genocide. Such programs, trainings, seminars, and conferences may
21 include, but shall not be limited to those programs organized by Facing History and Ourselves,
22 the Children's Movement for Creative Education or other such organizations which seek to bring
23 about humanitarian involvement and awareness through education.