

SENATE No. 2026

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act relative to geography 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 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
2 15QQQQQ the following section:-

3 Section 15RRRRR. The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the
4 first week of April as Massachusetts Geography Education week.

5 SECTION 2. Section 1G of chapter 15 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
6 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the seventh paragraph and inserting in place
7 thereof the following paragraph:-

8 The council on global education shall include the directors of each of the bay state
9 centers for global education and a representative from the Massachusetts Geographic Alliance.

10 SECTION 3. (a) There is hereby established a commission on geography education
11 which shall consist of 8 members including: a member of the council on global education, to be
12 appointed by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, who shall serve as chair;
13 a representative from the department of elementary and secondary education to be appointed by
14 the commissioner of elementary and secondary education;; 2 members appointed by the secretary
15 of labor and workforce development, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the alternative
16 energy industry and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the geo-technology industry; and 4
17 members appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a public university professor or
18 administrator in the commonwealth to be selected from a group of 3 nominees submitted by the
19 New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society, 1 of whom shall be a teacher with
20 expertise in geography education selected from a list of 3 nominees submitted by the American
21 Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a teacher with expertise in geography
22 education selected from a list of 3 nominees submitted by the Massachusetts Teachers

23 Association and 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Massachusetts Geographic
24 Alliance to be selected from a group of 3 nominees submitted by the executive committee of the
25 Massachusetts Geographic Alliance.

26 (b) The commission shall investigate and study the status of geography education
27 including, but not limited to: (i) an assessment of the status of geography education from
28 kindergarten through grade 12, inclusive, in the Massachusetts history and social science
29 frameworks; (ii) an investigation of the status of programs that promote geography education and
30 whether the curriculum frameworks and overall educational goals of the commonwealth could be
31 cost-effectively enhanced through cooperation among public educational entities and those
32 programs; (iii) an assessment of best practices in geography education in the United States,
33 including the national geography standards that could serve as models for improving geography
34 education in the commonwealth; (iv) the implementation of professional development points to
35 promote teacher participation in geography education workshops and seminars to further
36 improve and encourage the incorporation of geography education in the daily curriculum; and (v)
37 any other matters that the commission considers relevant to the fulfillment of its mission and
38 purpose.

39 (c) The commission shall report to the general court the results of its findings and
40 recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out such
41 recommendations. This report shall be filed with the clerks of the senate and house of
42 representatives, who shall forward the report to the chairs of the joint committee on education
43 and the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than December
44 31, 2015.

45 SECTION 4. The commission established in section 3 shall be convened by the chair not
46 later than 90 days after the effective date of this act, whether or not all of the designees have
47 been appointed.