

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 465**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Elizabeth A. Poirier*

*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 the incorporation of civics in the high school curriculum.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/15/2015</i>
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>	<i>1/28/2015</i>
<i>Leah Cole</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>	<i>1/15/2015</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2015</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>1/26/2015</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/16/2015</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>2/4/2015</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2015</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>1/21/2015</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps Lee</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/2/2015</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 465**

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By Mrs. Poirier of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 465) of Elizabeth A. Poirier and others relative to the awarding of diplomas for civics education by the Board of Education. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act relative to the incorporation of civics in the high school curriculum.

*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 2 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:—

3           The board of education shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal for excellence  
4 in civics education, based on understanding of the state and federal constitutions and the  
5 democratic model of government for the standard and advanced studies diplomas. The board  
6 shall consider criteria for successful completion of history, government and civics course  
7 (including courses incorporating character education); voluntary participation in community  
8 service or extracurricular activities; and related requirements.