

**SENATE . . . . . No. 291**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Anne M. Gobi***

*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 geography education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>	
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>	
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	
<i>William Francis Galvin</i>	<i>Secretary of Commonwealth</i>	
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	
<i>Thomas P. Kennedy</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>3/4/2015</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	

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By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 291) of Anne M. Gobi, Joan B. Lovely, Claire D. Cronin, Todd M. Smola and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to geography education. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 2248 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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. Section 15MMM of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
2           2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 2, the words “second week of  
3           November” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the first week of April.

4           SECTION 2. Section 1G of chapter 15 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
5           amended by inserting after the word “education”, in line 63, the following words:- and a  
6           representative from the Massachusetts Geographic Alliance.

7           SECTION 3. (a) There shall be a commission on geography education, which shall  
8           consist of 8 members including: the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a  
9           designee, who shall serve as chair; a member of the global education advisory council, appointed

10 by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education; 2 members appointed by the  
11 secretary of labor and workforce development, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the  
12 alternative energy industry and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the geotechnology  
13 industry; and 4 members appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a public university  
14 professor or administrator in the commonwealth selected from a group of 3 nominees submitted  
15 by the New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society, 1 of whom shall be a teacher  
16 with expertise in geography education selected from a list of 3 nominees submitted by the  
17 American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a teacher with expertise in  
18 geography education selected from a list of 3 nominees submitted by the Massachusetts Teachers  
19 Association and 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Massachusetts Geographic  
20 Alliance.

21 (b) The commission shall investigate and study the status of geography education  
22 including, but not limited to: (i) an assessment of the status of geography education from  
23 kindergarten through grade 12, inclusive, in the commonwealth's history and social science  
24 frameworks; (ii) an investigation of the status of programs that promote geography education and  
25 whether the curriculum frameworks and overall educational goals of the commonwealth could be  
26 cost-effectively enhanced through cooperation among public educational entities and those  
27 programs; (iii) an assessment of best practices in geography education in the United States,  
28 including the national geography standards that could serve as models for improving geography  
29 education in the commonwealth; (iv) the implementation of professional development points to  
30 promote teacher participation in geography education workshops and seminars to further  
31 improve and encourage the incorporation of geography education in the daily curriculum; and (v)

32 any other matters that the commission considers relevant to the fulfillment of its mission and  
33 purpose.

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

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