

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2016**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Linda Dean Campbell***

*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 to promote and enhance civic engagement.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>1/19/2017</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>	
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>	<i>1/25/2017</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Randy Hunt</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>

<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Adrian Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>David M. Nangle</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2016**

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By Mrs. Campbell of Methuen, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2016) of Linda Dean Campbell and others for legislation to promote and enhance civic engagement for public school students. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement.

*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, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting at striking out Section 2 and replacing it with the following  
3 section:-

4           Section 2. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following  
5 meanings:-

6           “student led civics project” is a rigorous project-based approach that involves a student-  
7 led inquiry and learning process involving essential knowledge, and use of disciplinary concepts  
8 and tools, structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed products and  
9 tasks.

10           “The Department” is the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

11 “local educational agency” or “LEA” is a public board of education or other public  
12 authority legally constituted within Massachusetts for either administrative control or direction  
13 of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city,  
14 county, township, school district , or other political subdivision of Massachusetts, or for a  
15 combination of school districts or counties as are recognized in Massachusetts as an  
16 administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.

17 “The Fund” is the Civics Project Fund administered by the Department of Elementary  
18 and Secondary Education.

19 (b) In all public elementary and high schools American history and civics, including the  
20 constitution of the United States, the declaration of independence and the bill of rights, and in all  
21 public high schools the constitution of the commonwealth and local history and government and  
22 a program relating to the flag of the United States of America, including, but not limited to,  
23 proper etiquette, the correct use and display of the flag, the importance of participation in the  
24 electoral process and the provisions of 36 U.S.C. 170 to 177, inclusive, shall be taught as  
25 required subjects for the purpose of promoting civic service and a greater knowledge thereof, and  
26 of fitting the pupils, morally and intellectually, for the duties of citizenship.

27

28 (c) There shall be set upon the books of the Commonwealth a fund known as the Civics  
29 Project Fund. The Fund shall be used by the Department to implement this section, including  
30 offering central capacity for standards, models, professional development infrastructure, and  
31 progress monitoring infrastructure. The remainder of the Fund may be allocated to regional  
32 educational collaboratives and districts to support curriculum development, offer professional

33 development, and collaboration with outside entities that can support these efforts. Gifts, grants,  
34 and donations for those purposes from public and private sources shall be deposited into the  
35 Fund.

36 (d) Every student in the Massachusetts public school system shall complete no less than 2  
37 student led civics projects, administered at 2 separate grade levels, as a requirement for  
38 graduation. These projects are intended to prepare students for lifelong civic motivation and  
39 participation through applied learning of civics content. These projects will provide for a student-  
40 centered inquiry process investigating the connection between federal, state, or local policy and  
41 an issue that impacts their community, research the issue, take strategic action to influence that  
42 issue, and create portfolios to demonstrate their process and outcomes. The project, and  
43 instruction on the skills and knowledge necessary to complete it, will be integrated into existing  
44 course curricula that also includes comprehensive civics content. Such courses may include  
45 Social Studies, History, Science, Math and English, or an independent civics course.

46 (e)The Department shall establish regional civics councils to monitor civics education  
47 implementation. Regional civics councils shall consist of representatives from K-12, higher  
48 education, nonprofits, and the business community. Regional civics councils shall include at  
49 least two voting high-school student members and shall solicit student input from students in  
50 their service area. The Department shall establish an annual convention and invite members of  
51 the regional civics councils to attend in order to assess the current state of civic education and  
52 make recommendations to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Department  
53 shall promulgate regulations consistent with this section specifying the size, membership, service  
54 area, selection process, and responsibilities for regional civics councils.

55 (f) (i) The Department shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement this section,  
56 which shall include a reporting mechanism to ensure that LEAs fulfill the requirements of this  
57 section.

58 (ii) The Department shall set quality standards, aligned with the existing Social Studies  
59 standards, in order to support LEAs in the implementation of this section. LEAs shall collaborate  
60 with schools within their jurisdiction to assist with project implementation and integration as  
61 well as offer curriculum options and professional development opportunities. The Department,  
62 regional civics councils, and LEAs may collaborate with outside entities to assist with the  
63 offering of said resources as well as in the evaluation of the implementation of this section and  
64 the achievement of objectives outlined in subsection (d).

65 (g) The Department shall establish the Edward M. Kennedy Civics Challenge. The  
66 Challenge shall be available to all eighth-grade students in the Massachusetts public school  
67 system. Participating students shall be administered a version of the U.S. citizenship test  
68 provided by the Department. The Department shall establish an annual statewide civics  
69 symposium for the top scoring one hundred students at an appropriate historic location. The  
70 Department shall notify the top scoring one hundred students of their invitation to attend said  
71 symposium. In the event of a tie score at the cut off for the top one hundred students,  
72 participation in the symposium shall be determined among those top scoring students by lottery.

73 (h) The Department shall establish the High School Voter Challenge. Every public high  
74 school shall name one or more currently enrolled pupils designated by the school administrator  
75 or nominated by peers to serve as voter outreach coordinators. The last two full weeks in April  
76 and the last two full weeks in September shall be known as “high school voter challenge weeks,”

77 during which time voter outreach coordinators shall be allowed and encouraged to hold voter  
78 registration drives and reach out to other students who are eligible to register or pre-register to  
79 vote on any high school campus at locations and times deemed appropriate by the school  
80 administrator, or his or her designee, which are reasonably accessible to all students.

81 SECTION 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall submit a  
82 report to the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward the same to  
83 the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education and the chairs of the house and  
84 senate committees on ways and means on the implementation of this act on or before July 1,  
85 2020.