

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 222**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***F. Jay Barrows***

*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 directing the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>	<i>1/18/2017</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/20/2017</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>William L. Crocker, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>	
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>	
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>	
<i>Randy Hunt</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>	
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	

*Hannah Kane*

*11th Worcester*

*Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.*

*5th Worcester*

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By Mr. Barrows of Mansfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 222) of F. Jay Barrows and others for legislation to direct the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 307 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act directing the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement.

*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 2 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws is amended, in line 7, by  
2 inserting after “ ... for the duties of citizenship.” The following:

3           The successful completion of a course in civics shall be mandated as a requirement for all  
4 students in order to receive their high school diploma. The department of education shall set  
5 guidelines for all school districts relative to the implementation of the civics course. At  
6 minimum, the course must educate students in the following criteria: Composition of local, state,  
7 and federal government,

8           Function of the branches of local, state, and federal government, Responsibilities and  
9 duties as an American citizen, Opportunities for voter participation, Exposure to current events  
10 and identification of government officials

11           SECTION 2: The department shall take all reasonable efforts to accomplish the  
12 establishment of necessary regulations by May 1, 2017, in order that the provisions of this act  
13 may be implemented in the following school year.