

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 434**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Shawn Dooley*

*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 civic test requirements for graduation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 434**

By Mr. Dooley of Norfolk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 434) of Shawn Dooley and others relative to requiring high school students to pass a civics test for prior to graduation. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 237 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to civic test requirements for graduation.

*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, as appearing in chapter 296 of  
2 the Acts of 2018, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:-

3 “(e) All public high schools shall provide a civics test for all of their students prior to  
4 graduation. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, in order to graduate from high school or  
5 obtain a general equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at least 60 of the 100  
6 questions listed on a civics test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used  
7 by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. A pupil who does not obtain a  
8 passing score on the test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test may retake  
9 the test until the pupil obtains a passing score. Pupils who receive special education shall not be  
10 required to achieve passing scores on the civics test in order to graduate from high school.

- 11 (f) The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish rules and  
12 regulations for monitoring adherence subsection (e).