

# **HOUSE . . . . . No. 5245**

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 5, 2021.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Resolve providing for the creation of a special commission relative to the seal and motto of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2848), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 5245.

For the committee,

AARON MICHLEWITZ.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court**  
**(2019-2020)**  
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By striking out the text and inserting in place thereof the following:—

1           Resolved, That there shall be a special commission to: (i) investigate the features of the  
2 official seal and motto of the commonwealth, under sections 1 to 6, inclusive, of chapter 2 of the  
3 General Laws, including those features that may be unwittingly harmful to or misunderstood by  
4 the citizens of the commonwealth; and (ii) examine and study the seal and motto of the  
5 commonwealth to ensure that they faithfully reflect and embody the historic and contemporary  
6 commitments of the commonwealth to peace, justice, liberty and equality and to spreading the  
7 opportunities and advantages of education.

8           The commission shall make recommendations for a revised or new design of the seal of  
9 the commonwealth and a revised or new motto of the commonwealth and shall make  
10 recommendations for an educational program on the history and meaning of the seal and motto.

11           The commission shall consist of: the executive director of the commission on Indian  
12 affairs or a designee; 5 members appointed by the commission on Indian affairs who are lineal  
13 descendants of tribes with a historical presence in the commonwealth; the state secretary or a  
14 designee; the chairs of the joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight; the  
15 senate minority leader or a designee; the house minority leader or a designee; the executive

16 director of the Massachusetts historical commission or a designee; the executive director of the  
17 Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy or a designee; the executive  
18 director of the Massachusetts cultural council or a designee; and 5 members appointed by the  
19 governor who shall have relevant cultural and historical expertise. The members shall select a  
20 chair and vice chair of the commission.

21 Not later than October 1, 2021, the commission shall submit a detailed report with its  
22 proposals and recommendations, along with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out its  
23 recommendations, to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on  
24 state administration and regulatory oversight and the governor. The clerks of the senate and  
25 house of representatives shall make the report available to the public via the internet. The  
26 commission shall not receive funds appropriated by the commonwealth; provided, however, that  
27 the commission may seek, accept and expend grants or gifts of money and professional,  
28 consulting, clerical or other services and supplies from the federal government or any other  
29 private or public source in the course of its investigation and study subject to the provisions of  
30 chapter 268A of the General Laws. The commissioners shall be appointed not more than 60 days  
31 after the effective date of this resolve. The special commission shall dissolve 60 days after the  
32 submission of the report, unless upon a 2/3rd vote of the commission an extension is deemed  
33 necessary and is ordered to complete the purpose of the commission; provided, however, that the  
34 time frame of the extension must be specified in the motion to grant the commission the  
35 extension.