

HOUSE No. 708

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chynah Tyler

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 concerning education in honor of Byron Rushing.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/8/2021</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Brandy Fluker Oakley</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/19/2021</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>10/21/2021</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/1/2022</i>

HOUSE No. 708

By Ms. Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 708) of Chynah Tyler and others relative to including the events of Black History instruction at schools and institutions of higher education. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 581 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act concerning education in honor of Byron Rushing.

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 General Laws is hereby amended adding the following section:

2

3 Section 2. Every school district and school shall include in its curriculum a unit of
4 instruction studying the events of Black History, including the history of the African slave trade,
5 slavery in America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country. These events shall include not
6 only the contributions made by individual African-Americans in government and in the arts,
7 humanities and sciences to the economic, cultural and political development of the United States
8 and Africa, but also the socio-economic struggle which African-Americans experienced
9 collectively in striving to achieve fair and equal treatment under the laws of this nation. The

10 studying of this material shall constitute an affirmation by students of their commitment to
11 respect the dignity of all races and peoples and to forever eschew every form of discrimination in
12 their lives and careers. The Department of Education and Secondary Education may prepare and
13 make available to all school districts and schools instructional materials, which may be used as
14 guidelines for development of a unit of instruction under this Section; provided, however, that
15 each school district and school shall itself determine the minimum amount of instruction time
16 which shall qualify as a unit of instruction satisfying the requirements of this Section. A school
17 may meet the requirements of this Section through an online program or course.

18

19 Section 3. Public community colleges, colleges and universities shall offer a course
20 studying the events of Black History, including the history of the African slave trade, slavery in
21 America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country. These events shall include not only the
22 contributions made by individual African-Americans in government and in the arts, humanities,
23 and sciences to the economic, cultural, and political development of the United States and
24 Africa, but also the socio-economic struggle that African-Americans experienced collectively in
25 striving to achieve fair and equal treatment under the laws of this nation. The taking of this
26 course shall constitute an affirmation by students of their commitment to respect the dignity of
27 all races and peoples and to forever eschew every form of discrimination in their lives and
28 careers.

29 Public community colleges, colleges and universities may meet the requirements of this
30 Section by offering an online course.