

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David F. DeCoste, (BY REQUEST)

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 amend the Flag and Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Robert Montgomery Thomas</i>		<i>8/30/2023</i>
<i>Robert W. Johnson</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Joseph B. Lewis</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Mary Ann Lewis</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Scott Nelson</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Galvin Zola</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Victor Neumeyer</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Brian Richards</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Mildred Carpenter</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Edward Karaian</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Tramaine Newberry</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Anetra Warren</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Erik Ferreira</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Andrea M Mariani</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>
<i>Valentine Eke</i>		<i>9/1/2023</i>

HOUSE No.

By Representative DeCoste of Norwell (by request), a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Robert Montgomery Thomas and others relative to the flag and seal of the Commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to amend the Flag and Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 1. Whereas, Wessagussett, later called Weymouth, the oldest settlement of the
2 Massachusetts Bay Colony, was settled in August, 1622 by the Thomas Weston party; and

3 2. Whereas, the Thomas Weston party were previously banned from the Plymouth
4 Colony for conduct unbecoming and thereafter moved north to establish said Wessagusset
5 Colony; and

6 3. Whereas, said Thomas Weston party continued in their unbecoming ways and
7 stole crops and goods from the indigenous natives as they were woefully unprepared to forage,
8 grow crops or manufacture any goods; and

9 4. Whereas, said Thomas Weston party also defiled the gravesites of the deceased of
10 the indigenous natives causing the justly outraged indigenous natives to threaten war against the
11 Thomas Weston party’s Wessagussett Colony and the Plymouth Colony; and

12 5. Whereas, then-Governor Bradford of Plymouth Colony sent Captain Myles
13 Standish and a group of armed men to Wessagussett to slay the indigenous native leaders on
14 April 6, 1623 to repress a rumored attack that would have wiped out both the-then Wessagussett
15 and Plymouth settlements; and

16 6. Whereas, Captain Myles Standish enticed the indigenous native leaders into the
17 fortress under a white flag of truce along with the promise of a meal of pork; and

18 7. Whereas, upon entering the fortification under said white flag of truce and
19 promise of a meal of pork, the indigenous native leaders were slain in cold blood by Captain
20 Myles Standish and his dishonorable men hiding behind the fortification’s doors; and

21 8. Whereas, Captain Myles Standish was later commended for his alleged bravery
22 and a vast park was named in his “honor” in Plymouth, Massachusetts for said alleged bravery;
23 and

24 9. Whereas, the Seal of the Commonwealth, adopted December 13, 1780 by then-
25 Governor John Hancock and the Council; ratified by the General Court on June 4, 1885, depict
26 an arm and hand holding a broadsword said to be that of Captain Myles Standish, which arm and
27 sword hangs menacingly over the indigenous native depicted on said Seal and later Flag of the
28 Commonwealth; indicating the subjugation and humiliation of the indigenous natives, which is
29 known to be offensive to a great number of people: with or without an indigenous bloodline; and

30 10. Whereas, the citizens of both the commonwealth and the city/town of Weymouth
31 continue living with great dishonor and deep stain as a result of the treacherous, murderous ways
32 of Captain Myles Standish and his dishonorable ilk on April 6, 1623; and

33 11. Whereas, it is particularly difficult to see how the menacing image of Captain
34 Myles Standish’s arm and broadsword held above the head of the indigenous native benefits the
35 proud people of the commonwealth or the city/town of Weymouth; and so, therefor:

36 12. Be it resolved: that the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of
37 Massachusetts, in bicameral session or separate, concurring sessions, send forth to the governor
38 of this good commonwealth a measure to have the offensive arm and broadsword of Captain
39 Myles Standish, shown menacingly above the head of the indigenous native, as it also suggests
40 the subjugation of all of the good people of the commonwealth-at-large, be removed from the
41 state Seal and Flag of this Honorable commonwealth and birthplace of our American freedoms
42 and liberties, forthwith;

43 13. And, be it further resolved: that, in the absence of such bicameral agreement, the
44 governor shall issue an executive order to facilitate the requested change, with concurrence of at
45 least five members of the Governor’s Council, pursuant to the Massachusetts Constitution,
46 Chapter II, Executive Power, Section I: the Governor, Article IV, of said constitution, to wit:

47 “the governor shall have authority from time to time, at [his] discretion, to assemble and
48 call together the councillors of this commonwealth for the time being; and the governor with the
49 said councillors, or five of them at least, shall, and may, from time to time, hold and keep a
50 council, for the ordering and directing the affairs of the commonwealth, agreeably to the
51 constitution and the laws of the land.”

52 14. And, be it furthermore resolved: that the governor, with consent of at least five
53 members of the Governor’s Council, pursuant to Chapter II, Executive Power, Section I: the
54 Governor, Article IV, aforesaid, order the name of Myles Standish State Park to be changed to

55 honor the indigenous natives of the-then Wessagussett Colony known as the Massachuset [sic],
56 for whom this great commonwealth was named, by renaming it [the] Massachusetts State Park;
57 and that a copy of this bill, all resolutions herein and all orders thereafter, be transmitted
58 forthwith to the Clerk of the Senate; the Clerk of the House of Representatives; the Office of the
59 Governor of the commonwealth and the Town Clerk of the city/town of Weymouth,
60 Massachusetts, and, all other city and town clerks in the commonwealth for the official filing in
61 their records, and; that all stationery, documents, banners, flags or any other paraphernalia or
62 indicia of the commonwealth emblazoned with said offensive seal shall be corrected within one
63 (1) year thereafter, or sooner, to comport with this constitutionally-provided and protected free
64 petition and its accompanying bill or jointly-approved amendments thereto.