

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2668**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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SENATE, April 1, 2024.

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 260) of Julian Cyr, Joanne M. Comerford and Michael J. Barrett for legislation to implement elementary and secondary interdisciplinary climate justice education across the Commonwealth, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2668).

For the committee,  
Jason M. Lewis

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
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An Act implementing elementary and secondary interdisciplinary climate literacy education across the Commonwealth.

*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 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section.

3           Section 2BBBBBB (a). To achieve, promote and support the instruction of climate  
4 science education for K-12 public school students in districts across the commonwealth, there  
5 shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as  
6 the Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy Trust Fund. There shall be credited to the fund: (1)  
7 revenue from appropriations and other money authorized by the general court and specifically  
8 designated to be credited to the fund; (2) funds from public and private sources such as gifts,  
9 grants, and donations to further climate science education; and (3) interest earned on money in  
10 the fund. Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and any  
11 money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

12           (b) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with the  
13 Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy Council established in section 1U(b) of chapter 69 of the

14 General Laws, shall make expenditures from the fund to support Interdisciplinary Climate  
15 Literacy education. In making such expenditures, the commissioner shall prioritize:

16 (1) underserved communities across the commonwealth including those public schools or  
17 school districts with high concentrations of economically-disadvantaged students; those public  
18 schools or school districts which serve high proportion of students from environmental justice  
19 populations, as defined in section 62 of chapter 30; or which are located in environmental justice  
20 populations; and

21 (2) communities that have or will in the future experience disproportionate effects of the  
22 change in climate.

23 SECTION 2. Section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
24 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “skills”, in line 38, the following  
25 words:- interdisciplinary climate literacy

26 SECTION 3. Section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
27 Official edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 1T the following new section:-

28 Section 1U. Elementary and Secondary Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy

29 (a) Each district may implement an Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy Plan that will  
30 provide students with an understanding of the causes of, impacts from, and solutions to  
31 anthropogenic climate change. Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy shall include, but not be  
32 limited to, an understanding of climate change’s nexus to the fields of science, technology,  
33 engineering, arts, history, social sciences, civics, and government, with a focus on climate justice  
34 and equitable climate solutions.

35 (b) A school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school or  
36 collaborative school may incorporate the climate change standards established pursuant to  
37 section 1D and subsection (a) into existing curriculum including, but not limited to, science,  
38 history and social sciences, technology or business.

39 (c) The commissioner shall create and engage an Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy  
40 Advisory Council. The commissioner, in consultation with the Council, shall provide guidelines  
41 on the development and implementation of district-level Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy  
42 Plans. The council shall include: youth leaders from a range of communities across the  
43 Commonwealth, including representatives of environmental justice neighborhoods;  
44 representatives of environmental justice organizations; teachers representing multiple disciplines;  
45 educator union representatives with expertise in climate change and climate justice; and experts  
46 in climate science and solutions. The Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy Council shall seek to  
47 ensure that each plan:

48 (1) was created with the involvement and input of youth leaders from the district;

49 (2) was developed in consultation with environmental, civics, and climate justice  
50 organizations or professionals; and

51 (3) provides equivalent instruction and opportunities for bilingual students and English  
52 language learners.

53 (d) The department may provide additional support and outreach including, but not  
54 limited to, statewide and regional training, meetings or conferences, additional staff to support  
55 students and teachers, and opportunities for districts and stakeholders to assess and share

56 evidence-based best practices in support of climate change education, and to provide feedback  
57 and recommendations to the department.

58 (e) The department shall utilize funding from the Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy Trust  
59 Fund and may apply for federal, state or other funding.