

HOUSE No. 605

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Vanna Howard and Samantha Montaño

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 resolve:

Resolve providing for a special commission to examine anti-slavery education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/10/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 605

By Representatives Howard of Lowell and Montañó of Boston, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 605) of Vanna Howard and Samantha Montañó for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to examine anti-slavery education in schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE , NO. OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

Resolve providing for a special commission to examine anti-slavery education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1 **Resolved**, that a special commission is hereby established for the purpose to study and
2 make recommendations regarding the teaching of anti-slavery education in Massachusetts
3 schools. Every school district shall for the purpose of educating middle and high school students
4 include in its curriculum a unit of instruction on the history of slavery utilizing, but not be
5 limited to, the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework disseminated
6 by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

7 Acts of slavery across the globe shall be taught consistently within the curriculum
8 frameworks to (i) promote the teaching of racism issues in all public schools and school districts,
9 with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of slavery; (ii) address the notion that
10 national, ethnic, racial, or religious hatred can overtake any nation or society, leading to

11 calamitous consequences; and (iii) reaffirm the commitment of free peoples from all nations to
12 never again permit the occurrence of another genocide and recognition that crimes of slavery
13 continue to be perpetrated across the globe as they have been in the past, and to deter
14 indifference to crimes against humanity and human suffering wherever they may occur.

15 The commission shall consist of the commissioner of the department of secondary and
16 elementary education or his designee, who shall serve as commission chair; 2 members of the
17 senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president and 1 of whom shall be appointed
18 by the minority leader of the senate; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall
19 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and 1 of whom shall be appointed by
20 the minority leader of the house of representatives; 2 persons to be appointed by the governor, 1
21 of whom shall have experience as an educator in the field of anti-slavery education; 2 persons
22 appointed by the attorney general, 1 of whom shall have experience in education law in the field
23 of anti-slavery education. The commission shall convene its first meeting not later than June 1,
24 2025, and shall file a report along with any recommendations for legislation not later than
25 November 30, 2025, with the clerks of the senate and house, the chairs of the senate and house
26 committees on ways and means, and the chairs of the joint committee on education.