

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**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>1/10/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 591 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

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 Section 2. Every school district and school shall include in its curriculum a unit of  
3 instruction studying the events of Black History, including the history of the African slave trade,  
4 slavery in America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country. These events shall include not  
5 only the contributions made by individual African-Americans in government and in the arts,  
6 humanities, and sciences to the economic, cultural and political development of the United States  
7 and Africa, but also the socio-economic struggle which African-Americans experienced  
8 collectively in striving to achieve fair and equal treatment under the laws of this nation. The  
9 studying of this material shall constitute an affirmation by students of their commitment to  
10 respect the dignity of all races and peoples and to forever eschew every form of discrimination in  
11 their lives and careers. The Department of Education and Secondary Education may prepare and

12 make available to all school districts and schools instructional materials, which may be used as  
13 guidelines for development of a unit of instruction under this Section; provided, however, that  
14 each school district and school shall itself determine the minimum amount of instruction time  
15 which shall qualify as a unit of instruction satisfying the requirements of this Section. A school  
16 may meet the requirements of this Section through an online program or course.

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

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