

SENATE No. 444

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rebecca L. Rausch

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 relative to celebrating and teaching Native American culture and history.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2025</i>
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>

SENATE No. 444

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 444) of Rebecca L. Rausch and Joanne M. Comerford for legislation relative to celebrate and teach Native American culture and history. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 344 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to celebrating and teaching Native American culture and history.

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

1 The third paragraph of section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the
2 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in line 50, after the second sentence, the
3 following sentence:- The standards shall provide for instruction in: (i) tribal history and current
4 issues of the Aquinnah Wampanoag, Mashpee Wampanoag and other Wampanoag tribes, the
5 Massachusett, the Nipmuc and other Native American tribes that exist within Massachusetts; (ii)
6 information about tribes and confederacies that have historic ties to Massachusetts, such as the
7 Wabanaki Confederacy; (iii) tribal history of Native Americans throughout the United States;
8 (iv) tribal sovereignty and governance, treaty rights, genocide, Native American cultures,
9 languages and socioeconomic experiences; and (v) ongoing issues common to contemporary

- 10 Native Americans throughout Massachusetts; provided, that the board shall consult with tribal
- 11 nations in developing these standards.