HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 853 FILED ON: 1/15/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 330

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

F. Jay Barrows

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 directing the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
F. Jay Barrows	*1st Bristol*
Stephen L. DiNatale	*3rd Worcester*
David T. Vieira	*3rd Barnstable*
Elizabeth A. Poirier	*14th Bristol*
Donald Humason	
Michael F. Rush	*Norfolk and Suffolk*
Linda Campbell	*15th Essex*
Ellen Story	*3rd Hampshire*
Michael O. Moore	*Second Worcester*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	*5th Essex*
Denise Andrews	*2nd Franklin*
Kimberly N. Ferguson	*1st Worcester*
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*
Thomas J. Calter	*12th Plymouth*
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*
Carlos Henriquez	*5th Suffolk*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 330

By Mr. Barrows of Mansfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 330) of F. Jay Barrows and others for legislation to direct the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *136* OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act directing the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement.

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

SECTION 1: Section 2 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws is amended, in line 7, by inserting after " … for the duties of citizenship." The following:

The successful completion of a course in civics shall be mandated as a requirement for all students in order to receive their high school diploma. The department of education shall set guidelines for all school districts relative to the implementation of the civics course. At minimum, the course must educate students in the following criteria: Composition of local, state, and federal government,

Function of the branches of local, state, and federal government, Responsibilities and duties as an American citizen, Opportunities for voter participation, Exposure to current events and identification of government officials

SECTION 2: The department shall take all reasonable efforts to accomplish the establishment of necessary regulations by May 1, 2015, in order that the provisions of this act may be implemented in the following school year.