

SENATE No. 2581

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

SENATE, February 4, 2020.

The committee on Education, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 327) of Michael J. Rodrigues, Cynthia Stone Creem, Barry R. Finegold, Jason M. Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to genocide education; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2324) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael O. Moore, Jack Patrick Lewis, Eric P. Lesser, John Barrett, III and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a hate crimes grant program; reports recommending that the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2581) ought to pass.

For the committee,
Jason M. Lewis

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act concerning genocide education.

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 is hereby amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 2GGGGG. (a) To achieve and promote the teaching of human rights issues in all
4 districts, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, including but not
5 limited to the Holocaust, there shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth
6 a separate fund to be known as the Genocide Education Trust Fund for the purpose of educating
7 middle and high school students on the history of genocide. The fund shall be administered by
8 the commissioner of elementary and secondary education. The fund shall be credited with: (i)
9 revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court and specifically
10 designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) interest earned on such revenues; and (iii) funds from
11 public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations to further genocide education.
12 Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and any money
13 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

14 (b) Amounts credited to the fund may be expended, without further appropriation, by the
15 commissioner for purposes related to the instruction of middle and high school students on the
16 history of genocide, including but not limited to: (i) the development of curricular materials
17 detailing the underlying causes, international reaction, progression, and aftermath of genocide;
18 and (ii) professional development training, including the provision of trainings, seminars,
19 conferences, and materials for educators to use in the teaching of genocide. Such instruction shall
20 be performed in a manner consistent with the history and social science standards developed
21 pursuant to section 1D of chapter 69 and the curriculum frameworks adopted by the board of
22 elementary and secondary education pursuant to section 1E of chapter 69. In expending amounts
23 credited to the fund, the commissioner may prioritize underserved communities across the
24 commonwealth, including those school districts with high concentrations of economically
25 disadvantaged students, or communities that have experienced multiple racial, ethnic, or
26 religious bias-motivated incidents.

27 (c) Amounts received from private sources shall be approved by the commissioner of
28 elementary and secondary education and subject to review before being deposited in the fund to
29 ensure that pledged funds are not accompanied by conditions, explicit or implicit, on the
30 implementation of genocide education programming that may be detrimental to the neutral and
31 rigorous teaching of the history of genocide or unduly influence the direction of genocide
32 education policy. The review shall be made publicly available.

33 (d) Annually, not later than October 1, the commissioner shall report to the clerks of the
34 house of representatives and senate, the joint committee on education and the house and senate
35 committees on ways and means on the fund's activity. The report shall include, but not be limited
36 to: (i) the source and amount of funds received; (ii) the amounts distributed and the purpose of

37 expenditures from the fund; (iii) any grants provided to institutions of higher education and other
38 stakeholder organizations; and (iv) anticipated revenue and expenditure projections for the next
39 year.

40 (e) There shall be a competitive grant program developed and administered by the
41 department of elementary and secondary education for all public schools and school districts.
42 The department may expend funds from the Genocide Education Trust Fund for this grant
43 program. All grant applications shall be for projects consistent with the history and social science
44 standards developed pursuant to section 1D of chapter 69 and the curriculum frameworks
45 adopted by the board of elementary and secondary education pursuant to section 1E of chapter
46 69. The department may establish additional requirements for applications to this grant program.

47 In approving grant applications, the department may give preference to applications that
48 include: (A) input from relevant community stakeholders, including but not limited to, local
49 officials, municipal human rights commissions, and community-based organizations; and (B)
50 plans to partner with community-based organizations or otherwise engage with the applicant's
51 local community. For purposes of this section, "community-based organization" shall mean a
52 public or private non-profit organization that is representative of a community or significant
53 segments of a community, and provides educational or related services to individuals in the
54 community.

55 The department may provide funds and other resources to districts as needed to ensure
56 that every public school and school district has the opportunity to apply for grants.

57 SECTION 2. Section 1I of chapter 69 of the general laws is hereby amended by striking
58 lines 205 and 206 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

59 “(k) global education;
60 (l) nutrition and wellness programs; and
61 (m) genocide education programs.”

62 SECTION 3. Said section 1I is hereby further amended by adding, after line 206, the
63 following new paragraph:-

64 “The department shall report annually to the clerks of the house of representatives and
65 senate and the joint committee on education on each school district’s genocide education
66 programs.”