

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1762**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Elizabeth A. Malia***

*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 prohibiting the display of symbols of hate in public spaces.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/16/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>

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By Ms. Malia of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1762) of Elizabeth A. Malia, Joanne M. Comerford and Lindsay N. Sabadosa relative to prohibiting the display of symbols of hate in public spaces. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act prohibiting the display of symbols of hate in public spaces.

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

1 Chapter 264 of the Massachusetts General Laws as appearing in the 2018 edition is  
2 hereby amended by adding after Section 8, the following: - “Section 8A: Displaying, Flying, and  
3 or establishing the use of the Confederate flag, German National Socialist Party Flag, or any  
4 emblem of hate in public spaces.

5 The commonwealth of Massachusetts shall not sell or display any symbols of hate or any  
6 similar image, or tangible personal property, inscribed with such an image on public property  
7 unless the image appears in a book, digital medium, museum, or otherwise serves an educational  
8 or historical purpose.

9 For the purposes of this section, the term “symbols of hate” shall include, but not be  
10 limited to, symbols of white supremacy, neo-nazi ideology, the flag and emblems of the German  
11 National Socialist Party, or the Confederate flag or any other emblem of the confederacy.

12           The Confederate flag is defined as but not limited to the rectangular flag of red with two  
13 blue stripes intersecting to form an X, with thirteen white stars inside it. The stars being arranged  
14 one star in the center, and three in each arm of the X. Other formations may include the same  
15 shape format but inverse color spectrum, with a red X on a blue body; and any other form of the  
16 flag colloquially known as the Stars and Bars used by the Confederate States of America from  
17 1861 to 1865.

18           The flag of the German National Socialist Party is defined as but not limited to the orange  
19 flag with a white circle and a black swastika, or any derivative design that served as an emblem  
20 of the German National Socialist Party or the Nation of Germany from 1920 to 1945.”