

HOUSE No. 255

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan Meschino

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 the consideration of a child’s racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 255

By Ms. Meschino of Hull, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 255) of Joan Meschino relative to the long-term well-being consideration of a child’s racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the consideration of a child’s racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity.

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. Section 1 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting the following sentence at the end of the third paragraph:-

3 Consideration of the child’s long-term well-being shall include consideration of how to
4 best preserve and promote the child’s cultural, racial, ethnic, religious, and linguistic identities.

5 SECTION 2. Section 5-207 of Chapter 190B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
6 adding the following sentence at the end of subsection (a):-

7 The court’s consideration of what would be in the best interest of the minor shall include
8 consideration of how to best preserve and promote the minor’s cultural, racial, ethnic, religious,
9 and linguistic identities.

10 SECTION 3. Section 3 of Chapter 210 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
11 striking out the last sentence of the second paragraph of subsection (c) and inserting in place
12 thereof the following two sentences:-

13 In making the determination, the health, safety, and well-being of the child shall be of
14 paramount, but not exclusive, concern. The court's consideration of the child's well-being shall
15 include consideration of how to best preserve and promote the child's cultural, racial, ethnic,
16 religious, and linguistic identities.