

# SENATE . . . . No. 12

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To accompany the petition of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association, by Richard L. Kent, for legislation to require instruction in music in the public schools. Education.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Three.

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### AN ACT REQUIRING INSTRUCTION IN MUSIC IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

*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 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, is hereby  
3 amended by inserting after the word "drawing", in  
4 line 8, the word: —, music, — so as to read as fol-  
5 lows: — *Section 1.* Every town shall maintain, for  
6 at least one hundred and sixty days in each school  
7 year unless specifically exempted as to any one year  
8 by the department of education, in this chapter called  
9 the department, a sufficient number of schools for the  
10 instruction of all children who may legally attend a  
11 public school therein. Such schools shall be taught by  
12 teachers of competent ability and good morals, and  
13 shall give instruction and training in orthography,  
14 reading, writing, the English language and grammar,  
15 geography, arithmetic, drawing, music, the history and

16 constitution of the United States, the duties of citizen-  
17 ship, physiology and hygiene, good behavior, indoor  
18 and outdoor games and athletic exercise. In connec-  
19 tion with physiology and hygiene, instruction as to  
20 the effects of alcoholic drinks and of stimulants and  
21 narcotics on the human system, and as to tuberculosis  
22 and its prevention, shall be given to all pupils in all  
23 schools under public control, except schools main-  
24 tained solely for instruction in particular branches.  
25 Such other subjects as the school committee considers  
26 expedient may be taught in the public schools.