

HOUSE No. 1042

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Garballey

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 to establish a finish line grant program to encourage college completion.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 1042

By Mr. Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1042) of Sean Garballey and others relative to establishing the Great State of Mind Scholarship Program. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1066 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**
—————

An Act to establish a finish line grant program to encourage college completion.

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 16 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding the following new paragraph after paragraph five:-

3

4 There shall be a Finish Line Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to cover the
5 entire cost of tuition and fees for one year other than the first, in a program leading to an
6 associate’s or bachelor’s degree at a Massachusetts public college or university. The scholarships
7 will be available to residents of the Commonwealth in need of financial assistance whose family
8 income is less than the median family income in Massachusetts.

9 The Department of Higher Education shall establish guidelines governing said program,
10 which shall include but not be limited to eligibility requirements, selection criteria (such as
11 acceptable grades and an academic plan for timely degree completion), and other guidelines
12 designed to help meet the Department's goals, such as increasing overall student success and
13 graduation rates, and lowering achievement gaps for high-risk students; provided, further, that
14 no funds from this scholarship program may be used to pay the tuition or fees for any course or
15 program offered or administered by a non-public entity and that no student shall be eligible to
16 receive a scholarship from this program more than one time.

17 If funds appropriated for this program are insufficient to cover costs of qualified
18 applicants, the Department shall hold a lottery for available scholarships. The funds for the
19 program are meant to supplement and not supplant existing scholarship funds; funds for this
20 program shall not be derived from existing financial aid programs the Commonwealth
21 administers.

22 The Department will provide the Joint Committee of Higher Education of the General
23 Court a report analyzing the usage, achievements and costs of this program, together with
24 recommendations for its future, no later than 120 days following the program's first year of
25 operation.