

HOUSE No. 1207

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel M. Donahue

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 creation of the battlefield to STEM field incentive program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 1207

By Mr. Donahue of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1207) of Daniel M. Donahue and others for legislation to create a fiscal incentive program for veterans to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 631 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the creation of the battlefield to STEM field incentive program.

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. The first paragraph of subsection (c) of section 217 of chapter 6 of the
2 General Laws, as appearing in section 12 of chapter 165 of the acts of 2014, is hereby amended
3 by inserting after the word “network” the following:- ; a veteran with expertise in a STEM field.

4 SECTION 2. Subsection (b) of section 2MMM of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as
5 appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

6 In addition to the foregoing, the grants and other disbursements and activities of the
7 Pipeline Fund shall annually fund and support the Battlefield to STEM Program established in
8 section 76 of chapter 10.

9 SECTION 3. Subsection (d) of said section 2MMM of said chapter 29, as amended by
10 section 50 of chapter 165 of the acts of 2014, is hereby further amended by striking out the
11 second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences:-

12 When promulgating policies, rules or regulations related to the implementation of the
13 second paragraph of said subsection (b), the board of higher education shall consult with the state
14 treasurer, the adjutant general and the commissioner of veterans' affairs. The commissioner of
15 higher education shall file any policies, rules and regulations with the joint committee on
16 education, the joint committee on higher education, the joint committee on economic
17 development and emerging technologies, the joint committee on labor and workforce
18 development and, where appropriate, the joint committee on veterans and federal affairs for
19 review and comment at least 30 days before the effective date of the policies, rules or
20 regulations.

21 SECTION 4. Chapter 10 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
22 section:-

23 Section 76. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context
24 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

25 "Completed 1 year of instruction", having successfully earned sufficient course credit and
26 grades to advance to the subsequent annual division of academic standing as defined in the
27 student handbook of the institution attended, or to graduate from such institution.

28 "Demonstrated academic promise", having achieved a score equal or superior to the
29 seventy-fifth percentile in the period tested on the SAT, ACT, Preliminary SAT National Merit
30 Scholarship Qualifying Test or Armed Forces Qualification Test, or having received signed and

31 sealed letters from 2 individual faculty members at the institution providing the STEM
32 designated course of educational pursuit, certifying that the applicant has demonstrated academic
33 achievement above and beyond what is typically expected.

34 “STEM designated course of educational pursuit”, an educational program, administered
35 by an educational institution located within the commonwealth and accredited by the New
36 England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., which terminates in the award of a
37 baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree, the focus of which is listed on STEM-
38 Designated Degree Program List maintained the United States Department of Homeland
39 Security.

40 “Veteran”, an individual who has served in the United States Army, Army of the United
41 States, Army Reserves, United States Navy, United States Naval Reserve, United States Marine
42 Corps, United States Marine Corps Reserve, United States Coast Guard, United States Coast
43 Guard Reserve, Army Nurse Corps, Navy Nurse Corps, United States Air Force, United States
44 Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, or Army National Guard for 1 or more days as part of a
45 campaign or expedition for which a campaign or service award has been authorized, and who
46 was discharged or released from such service under honorable conditions.

47 (b) There is hereby established a Battlefield to STEM Program, which shall provide
48 financial support to veterans who have completed 1 year of instruction in a STEM designated
49 course of educational pursuit and have demonstrated academic promise. The program shall
50 provide each veteran whose application is accepted pursuant to the process established in
51 subsection (c) with the sum of \$5,000 per academic year, for a period of no more than 4
52 academic years.

53 The program shall be administered by the state treasurer, in consultation with the
54 commissioner of higher education, the adjutant general and the commissioner of veterans'
55 affairs.

56 (c) Applications for the program shall be filed with the state treasurer, upon forms that
57 the treasurer shall provide. The adjutant general and the commissioner of higher education shall
58 certify to the state treasurer any information necessary to establish that an applicant or
59 educational program has satisfied the requirements of this section or to otherwise carry out the
60 program.

61 (d) Each applicant shall submit the following as a part of his or her application:-

62 (1) A copy of form DD-214;

63 (2) An official academic transcript certifying the completion of 1 academic year;

64 (3) A copy of form DD-1966/1 or equivalent documentation; and

65 (4) Documentation sufficient to verify that the applicant has demonstrated academic
66 promise in accordance with the requirements of this section.

67 (e) The state treasurer shall act upon all applications made pursuant to this section, and
68 may expend not more than 5% of the sum of the funds designated for the program for
69 administrative and clerical assistance.

70 (f) There shall be a program review board, which shall hear the complaint of any
71 applicant aggrieved by a decision of the state treasurer. The program review board shall consist
72 of a member of the department of the state treasurer, designated by the state treasurer, an
73 assistant attorney general, designated by the attorney general, the adjutant general or his

74 designee. Each applicant so aggrieved shall be entitled to a hearing in front of the board. The
75 board shall provide due notice of the hearing to the applicant, and the decision of the board as to
76 any receipt of program funds shall be final.

77 (g) The state treasurer may, in consultation with the commissioner of higher education,
78 the adjutant general, and the commissioner of veterans' affairs, issue rules and regulations
79 necessary to carry out the requirements of this section.