

HOUSE No. 1332

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 creating financial opportunities in higher education by reducing unnecessary state administrative policies.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1332

By Mr. Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1332) of Sean Garballey relative to financial opportunities and state administrative policies in higher education. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating financial opportunities in higher education by reducing unnecessary state administrative policies.

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. Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 15C and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section: -

4 "Section 15C. Each institution within the system of public higher education shall
5 annually produce audited financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting
6 principles, generally accepted auditing standards, and generally accepted governmental auditing
7 standards. The statements shall be in accordance with procedures for timeliness and for
8 disclosures as proscribed by the office of the state comptroller and approved by the state auditor.
9 The statements shall include all expenditures and revenues from all appropriated and non-
10 appropriated funds and be filed with the governor, office of state comptroller, the board of higher
11 education, the house and senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on
12 higher education no later than October 15 each year."

13 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, public
14 institutions of higher education may elect to pay its payroll tax from either local funds or its state
15 appropriation.

16 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, foundations
17 established for the benefit of public colleges and universities may enter into any lease
18 agreements permitted by law.

19 SECTION 4. Subsection (e) of section 46 of chapter 7C of the General Laws, as
20 appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the figure “\$300,000”
21 and inserting in place thereof the following figure: - \$1,000,000.

22 SECTION 5. Section 5 of chapter 7C of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
23 out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: -

24 “Section 5. The commissioner shall, in a manner and to the extent provided by this
25 chapter, control and supervise any building project to be undertaken by a state agency or building
26 authority when the estimated cost of the project exceeds \$1,000,000 and involves structural or
27 mechanical work. The commissioner may, upon request of a state agency or building authority,
28 delegate project control and supervision to that state agency or building authority over projects
29 involving structural or mechanical work whose estimated cost is less than \$10,000,000 if the
30 commissioner determines that the agency or authority has the ability to control and supervise
31 such project. Except as otherwise provided in this section, any state agency or building authority
32 shall control and supervise its own building projects when the estimated cost of such project is
33 less than \$1,000,000, or if the project does not involve structural or mechanical work. As used in

34 this section, "estimated cost" shall mean the estimated construction cost stated in a study or
35 program prepared in accordance with section 59.”

36 SECTION 6. Section 44A of Chapter 149 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
37 striking out the figures “\$10,000” and replacing it with the following: - “\$30,000”. The same
38 section is further amended by striking out the figures “\$150,000” and replacing it with the
39 following: - “\$300,000”. The same section is further amended by striking out the figures
40 “\$50,000” and replacing it with the following: - “\$150,000”.

41 SECTION 7. Section 39M of Chapter 30 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
42 striking out the figures “\$10,000” and replacing it with the following: - “\$30,000”. The same
43 section is further amended by striking out the figure “\$150,000” and replacing it with the
44 following: - “\$300,000”. The same section is further amended by striking out the figures
45 “\$50,000” and replacing it with the following: - “\$150,000”.

46 SECTION 8. Section 44F of Chapter 149 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
47 striking out the figures “\$25,000” and replacing it with the following: - “\$50,000”.

48 SECTION 9. Section 44A of Chapter 149 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
49 striking out the following: - “a minimum of 2”.

50 SECTION 10. Section 39S of Chapter 30 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
51 striking out the figures “\$10,000” and replacing it with the following: - “\$25,000”.