

HOUSE No. 03355

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John W. Scibak

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing the Massachusetts higher education matching grants program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Michael Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>John D. Keenan</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Stanley C. Rosenberg</i>	<i>Hampshire and Franklin</i>
<i>David M. Torrisi</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Denise Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>

HOUSE No. 03355

By Mr. Scibak of South Hadley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3355) of John W Scibak and others for legislation to establishing a higher education matching grants program. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing the Massachusetts higher education matching grants 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 Chapter 15A of the general laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended
2 by adding the following section:-

3 Section 42. (a) There shall be established with the department of higher education, a higher
4 education matching grants program to provide funding to public institutions of higher education,
5 as set forth in section 5, to meet the matching contribution requirements as specified by the
6 awarding federal agency, foundation, or other non-state funding entity.

7 The purpose of the program is to: (1) expand access and availability of federal and corporate
8 research funding for both basic and applied research at public institutions of higher education;
9 (2) enable faculty and staff to successfully compete for external funding and to increase their
10 research capabilities; (3) improve the research capabilities of public institutions of higher

11 education; and (4) provide a vehicle for faculty and staff to meet required matching contribution
12 requirements and be eligible for available competitive grant funds.

13 (b) There shall be established and placed within the department a fund to be known as the Higher
14 Education Matching Grants Fund, hereinafter in this section referred to as the fund, to be held by
15 the department separate and apart from its other funds. The fund shall be credited any
16 appropriations, bond proceeds, or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically
17 designed to be credited thereto. All available moneys in the fund that are unexpended at the end
18 of each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure in
19 the subsequent fiscal year.

20 (c) The department shall develop and approve rules for the program prior to the distribution of
21 any grants from the fund. Said rules shall establish the terms and conditions for all grant awards
22 and shall establish the terms, procedures, standards, evaluation criteria and conditions which the
23 department shall employ to identify qualified applications, process applications, and make grant
24 determinations. Copies of the approved rules, and any modifications thereto, shall be submitted
25 to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and shall forward the same to the
26 house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on higher education.

27 All requests for funding from the program shall be accompanied by a copy of the application for
28 federal, foundation or other non-state funding and shall include a copy of the matching fund
29 requirements as specified by the funding entity. Applications may be reviewed on a rolling
30 basis.

31 (d) Projects eligible for funding shall meet the following criteria: (1) the project involves either
32 basic research or applied research activities; (2) the research project is awarded grant funds

33 through an open and competitive process of merit review; and (3) matching funds are required by
34 the sponsor or the award is conditioned on a match as a determination of institutional
35 commitment.

36 Research projects for which the commonwealth has provided a specific grant or appropriation
37 are ineligible for funds under the program.

38 (e) Funding under the program may be used to pay the base salaries of faculty, staff, and to fund
39 affiliated graduate or undergraduate student fellowships directly related to the stated research
40 project. Funds may also be used to purchase basic infrastructure including, but not limited to,
41 essential equipment supplies and materials directly related to the research project.

42 Workforce training or development, curricular development, clinical trials, building construction
43 or renovation or any other activities seen as incidental to the basic research or applied research
44 being proposed shall not be funded under the program.