

HOUSE No. 3701

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to improve the educational rewards grant program to assist low income workers.

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. To provide for certain unanticipated obligations of the commonwealth, to
2 provide for an alteration of purpose for current appropriations, and to meet certain requirements
3 of law, the sum set forth in this section is hereby appropriated from the General Fund unless
4 specifically designated otherwise in this section, for the several purposes and subject to the
5 conditions specified in this section, and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public
6 funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. This sum shall be in addition to any amounts
7 previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of this item.

8 XXXX – XXXX For the Education Rewards Grant Program Fund established by
9 section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws
10\$1,500,000

11 SECTION 2. The second sentence of section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as
12 appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
13 “accredited”, in line 5, the words “public or nonprofit”.

14 SECTION 3. Section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
15 hereby amended by striking out the penultimate sentence, in lines 23-25, and inserting in place
16 thereof the following sentence:- The amount of the award shall be applied towards student
17 financial need in excess of the financial need met by other federal and state grants without regard
18 to the amount that may be available through loans.

19 SECTION 4. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a portion of
20 the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the
21 General Laws, as determined by the department of workforce development and the board of
22 higher education, shall be used for a “Supports for Success” pilot program to assist grant

23 recipients complete their degree or certificate programs; provided, that supports provided
24 through said pilot may include, but need not be limited to, intensive advising and counseling,
25 college and career success courses, work study jobs in the students' field of study, learning
26 communities, curricula redesign to support blended or accelerated remediation, mentoring or
27 tutoring, and child care and transportation assistance.

28 (b) On or before December 1 of each year, the department of workforce development
29 and the board of higher education shall submit to the the chairs of house and senate committees
30 on ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on higher education a report on use in
31 the prior fiscal year of the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section
32 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws; provided, that such report shall include, but need not be
33 limited to, the number of grants awarded, the amount of each grant, the level of educational
34 attainment of grant recipients before the grant was awarded, degrees and certificates awarded to
35 recipients, recipient demographic information, recipient retention rates while receiving the grant,
36 and analysis of the strengths and areas of needed improvement in the Educational Rewards Grant
37 Program and the "Supports for Success" pilot program and recommendations for such
38 improvements.