

HOUSE No. 4376

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 9, 2018.

The committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1920) of James Arciero and others for legislation to provide a waiver of fees to veterans at public institutions of higher learning, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4376) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JOHN J. LAWN, JR.

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to the cost of veteran higher education.

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. There shall be hereby established a special commission to study the cost
2 and feasibility of exempting veterans of the commonwealth from tuition, fees and associated
3 costs of attending public colleges and universities in the commonwealth, due to recent changes in
4 federal veteran services and benefits related to higher education.

5 The commission shall consist of the speaker of the house of representatives, or a
6 designee; the president of the senate, or a designee; the minority leader of the house of
7 representatives, or a designee; the minority leader of the senate, or a designee; the chairpersons
8 of the joint committee on higher education, or their designee; the chairpersons of the joint
9 committee on veterans and federal affairs, or their designee; the chairperson of the house ways
10 and means committee or a designee; the chairperson of the senate ways and means committee, or
11 a designee; and the secretary of the department of veterans services, or a designee.

12 The results of the commission’s study, shall include, but not be limited to; an evaluation
13 of the cost and feasibility of exempting veterans from paying tuition, fees and associated costs at

14 public colleges and universities in the commonwealth; the societal impact of such an exemption
15 for veterans and their families; and the effect of such a policy on the finances of the
16 commonwealth.

17 The findings of the commission and any recommendations shall be reported to the joint
18 committee on veterans and federal affairs and to the clerks of the house and senate on or before
19 December 21, 2020.