

HOUSE No. 4644

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 11, 2022.

The committee on Education to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 693) of Jeffrey N. Roy, Kate Lipper-Garabedian and others relative high schools providing and funding college programs, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4644) ought to pass.

For the committee,

ALICE HANLON PEISCH.

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

An Act relative to college in high schools.

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 is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 39 the following section:-

3 Section 39A. (a) All public institutions of higher education, as defined by section 5 of
4 chapter 15A, shall develop and adopt written policies and procedures to accept scores on all
5 Advanced Placement examinations to satisfy degree requirements. The policies shall indicate
6 whether the credit shall be granted for general education, major, or elective requirements at the
7 institution, and shall include procedures related to the transferability of these credits from
8 another institution of higher education.

9 An institution requiring an Advanced Placement exam score of more than three for the
10 purposes of receiving college credit for general education, major, or elective requirement shall
11 annually report to the department of higher education 1) evidence for requiring an exam score of
12 more than three for success in a related or more advanced course for which the lower division
13 course is a prerequisite; and 2) any disparate student impacts that are the results of requiring an

14 exam score of more than three for college credit. Annual reports shall be posted on each
15 institution's website and be accessible to the public for review.

16 (b) All policies, procedures, and exceptions governing the awarding of credit shall be
17 posted on the institution's website under the category of admission, which the institution shall
18 update annually to reflect any changes in policies and procedures. In addition, each institution
19 shall submit its policies and procedures, or any changes thereto, to the department of higher
20 education who shall post each institution's policies and procedures, or changes thereto, on the
21 department's website.

22 (c) The board of higher education shall annually review the Advanced Placement
23 examination score course granting policies of each public institution of higher education in
24 accordance with the requirements of this section and report its findings with the clerks of the
25 senate and the house of representatives, the chairs of the joint committee on education, and the
26 chairs of the joint committee on higher education. Each institution of higher education shall
27 provide the board of higher education with all necessary data to conduct its analysis.

28 (d) The board shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section in a manner that
29 ensures compliance with federal law regarding confidentiality of student education information,
30 including the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

31 SECTION 2. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
32 section 36 the following section:-

33 Section 37. (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall, in
34 consultation with the department of higher education, establish standards for approving and
35 designating college in high school programs. Designation as a college in high school program

36 shall be granted for an initial period of five years, subject to review after the first three years, and
37 renewable subject to performance. All programs approved under this section shall:

38 (1) Offer a coherent sequence of courses that allows a student to earn a high school
39 diploma and achieve at least one of the following:

40 (i) the accumulation of transferable college credits; provided that, academic courses that
41 count for college credit shall be those agreed to by the institutions of higher education
42 participating in the partnership with the high school,

43 (ii) an industry-recognized credential or certificate, including those determined to be
44 necessary for occupations with high employment value, which shall be determined by
45 considering factors including but not limited to a given occupation's entry wage, growth rate in
46 employment, and average annual openings; or

47 (iii) participation in a registered apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, or apprentice
48 readiness program;

49 (2) Prepare students adequately for future success in the workforce or in an institution of
50 higher education;

51 (3) Encourage the cooperative or shared use of resources, personnel and facilities
52 between public high schools, public and independent colleges or universities and employers;

53 (4) Emphasize parental involvement and provide consistent counseling, advising and
54 parent conferencing so that parents and students can make responsible decisions regarding course
55 selection and can track the student's academic progress and success;

56 (5) Develop methods for early identification of potential participating students in the
57 middle grades and through high school and provide outreach to those students to promote
58 academic preparation and awareness of college in high school programs; and

59 (6) Develop strategies to identify and engage underserved populations including by
60 income, race, ethnicity, sex, English language learner status and students with disabilities.

61 (b) Annually, by July 1, each college in high school program shall file a report with the
62 commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education and the commissioner of
63 higher education on performance measures, including, but not limited to the following
64 categories:

65 (i) high school graduation rates of participating students;

66 (ii) percentage of participating students who complete the program;

67 (iii) percentage of participating students who gain any postsecondary credits;

68 (iv) credits earned by participating students in college in high school programs, including
69 percentage of each program incorporating early college to gain at least 12 credits;

70 (v) percentage of participating students in a 6-year cohort who attain postsecondary
71 degrees; and

72 (vi) college and career outcomes of participating students.

73 The commissioners shall prepare an aggregate report for the senate and house chairs of
74 the joint committee on higher education, and the joint committee on education.

75 (c) The department of elementary and secondary education shall, in consultation with the
76 department of higher education and subject to approval by the boards of elementary and
77 secondary education and higher education, set multi-year goals for the commonwealth for the
78 attainment of college degrees and qualifying, industry-recognized certificates for students
79 participating in college in high school programs. Such goals shall include overall goals as well as
80 goals for historically underserved populations including by income, race, ethnicity, sex, English
81 language learner status and students with disabilities. Goals should include statewide-, district-,
82 and school-level goals. Progress towards the goals at the statewide-, district-, and school-levels
83 shall annually be reported publicly.

84 (d) The department of elementary and secondary education shall, in consultation with the
85 department of higher education, establish a publicly accessible online dashboard using data from
86 the reports filed pursuant to subsections (g) and (h) of the section to generate information on
87 each college in high school program. The purpose of the dashboard shall be to create user-
88 friendly displays of the overall success of the individual programs in achieving the goals and
89 shall be written in terms understandable to the general public and to help students and their
90 families identify available college in high school opportunities.