

HOUSE No. 644

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Denise Provost

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 relative to equal opportunity for high school graduates in the commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Juana Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>

<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Joseph A. Boncore</i>	<i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 644

By Ms. Provost of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 644) of Denise Provost and others for legislation to provide high school graduates equal access to in-state tuition rates and financial aid in the higher education system. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1061 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to equal opportunity for high school graduates in the commonwealth.

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 most recently amended by section 20 of chapter 189
2 of the acts of 2012, is hereby amended by adding the following section:—

3 Section 9C(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose
4 of determining eligibility for in-state tuition rates and fees and for state-funded financial
5 assistance at state institutions of higher education in Massachusetts, any person admitted to such
6 state institutions of higher education, other than a nonimmigrant alien within the meaning of
7 paragraph 15 of subsection (a)(A) through (S) of 8 U.S.C., section 1101 of the federal act, who
8 has attended a high school in the commonwealth for 3 or more years and has graduated from a
9 high school in the commonwealth or attained the equivalent thereof from an adult basic
10 education program in the commonwealth, shall be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates and fees,

11 and shall be eligible on the same terms as other persons for state-funded financial assistance, at
12 any state institution of higher education in the commonwealth.

13 (b) Any such person shall: (A) if eligible for the military selective service under the
14 federal Military Selective Service Act, as amended by 50 U.S.C., App. 453, section 3, register
15 for such; (B) provide the state institution of higher education in the commonwealth in which
16 enrollment is sought with documentation of registration with the selective service, if applicable;
17 (C) supply the state institution of higher education in which enrollment is sought with a valid
18 social security number or a document reflecting issuance of an individual taxpayer identification
19 number (ITIN) in lieu of a social security number; (D) file, in every year of enrollment, a
20 Massachusetts income tax return pursuant to chapter 62 of the general laws; and (E) file at the
21 time of enrollment, if that person is not a citizen of the United States or a legal permanent
22 resident of the United States, an affidavit signed under the pains and penalties of perjury stating
23 that the person has applied for citizenship or legal permanent residence or will apply for
24 citizenship or legal permanent residence in accordance with federal statute and federal
25 regulations within 120 days of eligibility for such status.

26 (c) No person qualified for in-state tuition rates and fees under this chapter shall be
27 denied in-state tuition and fees as a result of the granting of eligibility under this paragraph.

28 (d) The Legislature finds that this is a state law within the meaning of 8 U.S.C. 1621(d).