

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00977**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*Linda Dorcena Forry and*

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*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 TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL REWARDS GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST  
LOW INCOME WORKERS.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETITION OF:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 00977

By Ms. Forry of Boston and Senator Mr. Eldridge, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 977) of [PETITIONERS LIST] relative to workers' pathways to self sufficiency. [Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ SENATE  
□ , NO. 37 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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### 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. The second sentence of section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting the words “public or nonprofit” after the word “accredited”.

3 SECTION 2. Section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by deleting the  
4 words “The grant program shall serve as a last resort, after other federal and state grants have  
5 been exhausted” in the second to the last sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the words, “The  
6 amount of the award shall be applied towards student financial need in excess of the financial  
7 need met by other federal, state or private grants without regard to the amount that may be  
8 available through loans”.

9 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a portion of the  
10 Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established pursuant to section 2SSS of chapter 29 of  
11 the General Laws shall be used for a “Supports for Success” pilot program to assist Educational  
12 Rewards recipients complete their degree or certificate programs; provided further, that supports  
13 provided through said pilot may include but need not be limited to intensive advising and  
14 counseling, college and career success courses, work study jobs in the students’ field of study,  
15 learning communities, curricula redesign to support blended or accelerated remediation,  
16 mentoring or tutoring, and child care and transportation assistance.

17 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, on or before December  
18 1 of each year, the Department of Higher Education in collaboration with the Office of Student  
19 Financial Assistance shall submit to the house and senate clerks and the chairs of house and  
20 senate committees on ways and means a report on use in the prior fiscal year of the Educational  
21 Rewards Grant Program Fund established pursuant to section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General  
22 Laws; provided further, that such report shall include but need not be limited to the number of  
23 grants awarded, the amount of each grant, the level of educational attainment of grant recipients  
24 before the grant was awarded, degrees and certificates awarded to recipients, recipient  
25 demographic information, recipient retention rates while receiving the grant, and analysis of the  
26 strengths and areas of needed improvement in Educational Rewards Grant Program and the  
27 “Supports for Success” pilot program and recommendations for such improvements.