

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2102

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————  
In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)  
—————

SENATE, Tuesday, January 19, 2016

The committee on Higher Education to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 653) of Harriette L. Chandler, James J. O'Day and Daniel M. Donahue for legislation relative to in-state tuition retention for UMMS; (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 658) of Eileen M. Donoghue, James B. Eldridge, Kathleen O'Connor Ives, Bruce E. Tarr and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide for an investigation and study into expanding targeted student loan forgiveness programs; (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 659) of Eileen M. Donoghue and James Arciero for legislation to provide for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to a more robust public higher education oversight structure; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 660) of Eileen M. Donoghue, James B. Eldridge, Stephen L. DiNatale, James Arciero and others for legislation relative to fees at community colleges and state universities; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 663) of Eileen M. Donoghue for legislation to provide tuition retention at the University of Massachusetts; and (on the residue of Senate, No. 678) of Michael O. Moore, Jason M. Lewis and Carmine L. Gentile for legislation relative to strengthening and expanding affordable, quality higher education opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth for legislation relative to strengthening and expanding affordable, quality higher education opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2102).

For the committee,  
Michael O. Moore

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2102

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court**  
**(2015-2016)**  
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An Act relative to strengthening and expanding affordable, quality higher education opportunities for residents of 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           SECTION 1. To provide for supplementing certain items in the general appropriations act  
2 and other appropriations acts for fiscal year 2016, the sums set forth in section 2 are hereby  
3 appropriated from the General Fund unless specifically designed otherwise in this act or in those  
4 appropriations acts, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this act or  
5 in those appropriations acts, and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds  
6 for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016. These sums shall be in addition to any amounts  
7 previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of those items. These sums shall be  
8 made available until June 30, 2017.

9           SECTION 2.

### EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

#### Department of Higher Education

10           7066-0019 .....\$4,000,000

11           7066-1221 ..... \$1,500,000

12           7070-0066 ..... \$2,000,000

13           SECTION 2A. To provide for certain unanticipated obligations of the commonwealth, to  
14 provide for an alteration of purpose for current appropriations, and to meet certain requirements  
15 of law, the sums set forth in this section are hereby appropriated from the General Fund unless  
16 specifically designated otherwise in this section, for the several purposes and subject to the  
17 conditions specified in this section, and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public  
18 funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. These sums shall be in addition to any amounts  
19 previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of these items. These sums shall be  
20 made available until June 30, 2017.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

21           XXXX-XXXX For the development and implementation of standards and curriculum  
22 on financial literacy.....\$1,000,000

Department of Higher Education

23           7066-0115 For the purposes of continuing the implementation of section 15E of chapter  
24 15A of the General Laws to encourage private fundraising by the commonwealth's public  
25 institutions of higher education for the endowment and capital outlay programs of those  
26 institutions; provided, that the board of higher education shall implement this program in a  
27 manner which ensures that each institution shall have an opportunity to secure matching funds  
28 from this item; provided further, that \$10,000,000 shall be allocated to the university of

29 Massachusetts; provided further, that \$5,000,000 shall be allocated to state universities; provided  
30 further, that \$5,000,000 shall be allocated to community colleges; provided further, that if any  
31 funds allocated herein for disbursement to state universities and community colleges shall be  
32 unused, the remaining funds shall be made available to the university of Massachusetts; provided  
33 further, that, to the greatest extent possible, the state universities, community colleges, and the  
34 university of Massachusetts shall utilize the funds to increase the number of scholarship  
35 opportunities for students .....\$20,000,000

36 XXXX-XXXX For the continued development and implementation of the transfer system  
37 required by section 9 (hh) of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as inserted by  
38 this act.....\$2,500,000

39 XXXX-XXXX For the Education Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section  
40 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws..... \$1,500,000

41 XXXX-XXXX For the Licensed Certified Social Worker Student Education Loan  
42 Repayment Pilot Program Trust Fund established by this act.....\$1,200,000

43 XXXX-XXXX For the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority to assist in  
44 carrying out the early college planning and financing efforts being undertaken by the Authority,  
45 and the lower income family postsecondary education savings incentive matching grant pilot  
46 program established by this act; provided, that not less than \$1,500,000 shall be expended for the  
47 lower income family postsecondary savings incentive matching grant pilot program and shall be  
48 credited to the Lower Income Family Postsecondary Education Savings Incentive Matching  
49 Grant Pilot Program Trust Fund established by this act .....\$2,500,000

50           XXXX-XXXX For the Completion Grant Incentive Fund Pilot Program established by  
51 the board of higher education to increase the graduation and success rates of low income students  
52 who are enrolled in certificate or degree programs by providing incentive grants to persist and to  
53 complete their degree or certificate program of study over a maximum of four years  
54 .....\$3,000,000

55           XXXX-XXXX For a pilot program to be established by the Massachusetts Educational  
56 Financing Authority in accordance with section 5 of Chapter 15C of the General Laws to assist  
57 in refinancing higher education loans financed through the Authority that have higher interest  
58 rates.....\$10,000,000

59           XXXX-XXXX For a community colleges internship incentive grant program to be  
60 administered by the department of higher education; provided, that the commonwealth shall  
61 contribute funds to each community college in an amount to match private contributions in each  
62 fiscal year; provided further, that the commonwealth's contribution shall be equal to \$1 for every  
63 \$1 privately contributed to each community college's board of trustees or foundation; provided  
64 further, that the maximum total contribution from the commonwealth shall be no greater than the  
65 amount appropriated herein; provided further, that funds from this program shall not result in any  
66 direct or indirect reduction in the commonwealth's appropriation to the institution's operations,  
67 scholarships, financial aid or any state appropriation; provided further, the department of higher  
68 education shall establish guidelines and criteria for the administration of the  
69 program.....\$2,000,000

Community Colleges

70           7516-XXXX For the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund established in section 2RRRR  
71 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, inserted by this act, provided that the program shall be  
72 administered by the Middlesex Community College through its entity, the Massachusetts  
73 Community College Executive Office; provided, further, that no more than \$100,000 shall be  
74 used to administer the program.....\$1,100,000

75           7516-XXXX For education opportunity coordinators established in section 22B of  
76 chapter 15A of the General Laws, inserted by this act, to assist recipients of transitional aid to  
77 families with dependent children in earning a community college certificate or two-year  
78 associate's degree.....\$1,250,000

79           SECTION 3. Section 1 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
80 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the 3rd paragraph, the following  
81 paragraph:- It is hereby further declared to be the policy of the commonwealth to ensure that the  
82 university of Massachusetts, each state university, and each community college has at its  
83 disposal adequate funds to provide, foster and support high quality institutions of public higher  
84 education that serve the interests of the commonwealth and its residents in the manner described  
85 in this section. For that purpose, it is hereby further declared to be the policy of the  
86 commonwealth to make annually to the university of Massachusetts, each state university, and  
87 each community college appropriations which, with all other unrestricted funds that are  
88 available, in the case of each, for expenditure in the conduct of its affairs and the support of its  
89 mission, are sufficient to fully fund its operating requirements. It is hereby further declared to be  
90 the policy of the commonwealth to provide adequate funds to the university of Massachusetts,  
91 each state university, and each community college for capital needs including the repair,  
92 renovation, construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, demolition, expansion,

93 acquisition, furnishing, or equipping of buildings, structures, facilities and other infrastructure,  
94 including, but not limited to, technology infrastructure, necessary to maintain high quality  
95 institutions of higher education.

96 SECTION 4. Section 9 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
97 inserting after the word “education”, in line 243, the following:- ; (hh) to build and maintain, in  
98 conjunction with the university of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community  
99 colleges, a transfer system providing individual students with clear and consistent information on  
100 the student’s progress toward fulfilling degree requirements in any undergraduate program at any  
101 public institution of higher education in the state; provided, that the system shall include a  
102 standard core of course offering and numbering that are honored for common credit toward  
103 degrees and certificates across the commonwealth’s public institutions of higher education, and  
104 course-to-course equivalencies across these institutions that will enable students to transfer from  
105 one public institution of higher education to another without loss of credit, including, but not  
106 limited to, allowing credits earned toward a student’s designated major at one institution of  
107 public higher in the state to be transferred and applied to the same major at any other institution  
108 of public higher education in the state; provided further, that the board shall coordinate the  
109 implementation of the system and all public institutions of higher education institutions in the  
110 state shall utilize the system for all undergraduate programs and course offerings; provided  
111 further, that the board, in consultation with the University of Massachusetts, the state  
112 universities, and the community colleges, shall determine the form in which all data and course  
113 equivalencies shall be submitted by these institutions.

114 SECTION 5. Section 9 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby by further  
115 amended by adding the following paragraph:- All postsecondary educational institutions

116 offering courses and programs leading to degrees or certificates to residents of the  
117 commonwealth shall provide uniform student financial aid information to every prospective  
118 student who has been accepted for admission to the institution. Each institution shall provide  
119 this information prior to the institution's enrollment deadline for purposes of providing each  
120 student with time to make an informed decision about enrollment. Each institution shall use the  
121 financial aid shopping sheet or such other standardized document developed by the U.S.  
122 Department of Education, or the board of higher education to provide this information. Each  
123 institution annually shall post on its website a list and description of all scholarships, grants, or  
124 other funds that do not have to be paid back that are available at the institution to assist students  
125 in paying for their education. Each institution shall inform students about any income based loan  
126 repayment programs and public interest or other loan forgiveness programs available for  
127 borrowers of student loans. In addition, all public institutions of higher education in the state  
128 shall work with American Student Assistance through its SALT or other programs and the  
129 Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority to provide financial literacy for students  
130 attending these institutions.

131           The board of higher education shall develop a clear and consistent definition of what  
132 constitutes student financial aid which shall be used by all postsecondary educational institutions  
133 offering courses and programs leading to degrees or certificates to residents of the  
134 commonwealth.

135           SECTION 6. Section 15F of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
136 inserting in lines 12, 21, 23 24, 28, 29, 31, and 35 after the word "credit", the words:-and for-  
137 credit.



138 SECTION 7. Section 16 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
139 adding the following paragraph:- No state scholarship funds under this section, any other section  
140 of this chapter, or other state student financial aid however provided, shall be made available to,  
141 or on behalf, of any student enrolled in any postsecondary educational institution which the  
142 board of higher education determines does not meet the requirements of this paragraph. To  
143 meet the requirements of this paragraph, a postsecondary educational institution shall  
144 demonstrate to the board that it has: (a) not more than 40% of its undergraduate students  
145 borrowing student loans; (b) graduation rates of not less than 30% for undergraduate students  
146 taking 150% or less of the expected time to complete degree requirements, as most recently  
147 reported by the U.S. Department of Higher Education, provided, that graduation rates shall  
148 include students who transfer; or (c) an average 3 year cohort default rate that is not more than  
149 20%, as most recently reported by the U.S. Department of Education. The board of higher  
150 education shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this paragraph including, but not  
151 limited to, procedures and processes for annually determining which postsecondary educational  
152 institutions meet the requirements of this paragraph, and a process for an institution to appeal a  
153 determination that they do not meet the necessary requirements. The board of higher education  
154 shall annually post a list of institutions that meet the requirements of this paragraph on the  
155 department of higher education's website. No state scholarship funds under this section, any  
156 other section of this chapter, or other state student financial aid however provided, that is made  
157 available to, or on behalf, of any student enrolled in any for-profit postsecondary educational  
158 institution shall be used for purposes of marketing or advertising.

159 SECTION 8: Said chapter 15A is hereby further amended by inserting after section 22A  
160 the following new section:-

161 Section 22B. (a) Middlesex Community College shall establish education opportunity  
162 coordinator positions, through its entity, the Massachusetts Community College Executive  
163 Office. The coordinators shall work with recipients of cash assistance through transitional aid to  
164 families with dependent children who enroll in community colleges across the state for the  
165 purpose of earning a certificate or two-year degree. Each community college shall have at least 1  
166 on-campus coordinator. Coordinators shall provide focused assistance to recipients, including  
167 but not limited to developing career plans, identifying a program of study, accessing financial aid  
168 and work study, and helping obtain other supports such as childcare and transportation  
169 assistance. The coordinators shall work with recipients, community colleges, and case managers  
170 at the department of transitional assistance. Middlesex Community College, through its entity,  
171 the Massachusetts Community College Executive Office, shall enter into a memorandum of  
172 understanding with the community colleges to ensure coordinators execute the duties of this  
173 paragraph.

174 (b) Middlesex Community College, through its entity, the Massachusetts Community  
175 College Executive Office, and in collaboration with the department of transitional assistance,  
176 shall annually file a report with the chairs of the joint committee on higher education, the joint  
177 committee on children, families, and persons with disabilities, and the house and senate  
178 committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to:- (1) information  
179 regarding the efficacy of community college placements in developing careers for recipients of  
180 cash assistance; (2) the number of recipients enrolled in certificate or two-year degree programs  
181 at community colleges; (3) the number of recipients enrolled in a certificate or two-year degree  
182 program receiving grants under the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund established in section  
183 2RRRR of chapter 29; (4) graduation rates of recipients of cash assistance enrolled in a

184 certificate or two-year degree program; (5) employment rates of former recipients 6 months after  
185 completing a degree or certificate program; and (6) employment rates of former recipients 1 year  
186 after completing a degree or certificate program. No personal identifying information shall be  
187 used in the report. The first report shall be filed on or before August 1 two years after said  
188 TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund is established and annually, on or before August 1, after  
189 that.

190 SECTION 9. Said chapter 15A is hereby further amended by inserting after section 44,  
191 the following section:-

192 Section 45. There shall be a Partnership to Advance Collaboration and Efficiency, herein  
193 referred to as PACE. The purposes of PACE shall be to foster collaborations that promote  
194 operational efficiencies, cost savings, increased productivity, and increase and enhance high  
195 quality higher education opportunities for residents of the commonwealth at the public  
196 institutions of higher education set forth in section 5. Initiatives undertaken by PACE shall  
197 include, but not be limited to, cooperative efforts directed at increasing joint purchasing,  
198 expanding shared services, increasing innovative measures for delivering higher education, and  
199 enhancing academic opportunities for students. PACE shall be governed by a steering  
200 committee consisting of the following: the president of the university of Massachusetts; 2  
201 persons from the university of Massachusetts appointed by the president to serve for terms not  
202 exceeding 4 years, as the president may determine; 3 presidents of the state universities to be  
203 selected by vote of the presidents of the 9 state universities conducted at least once every 4 years;  
204 3 presidents of the community colleges to be selected by vote of the presidents of the 15  
205 community colleges to be conducted at least once every 4 years; and the commissioner of higher  
206 education. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the steering committee

207 may hire staff, enter into contracts, interagency or other agreements, apply for federal, state, or  
208 other grants, establish subcommittees, and do whatever it deems necessary to carry out the  
209 purposes of PACE. The steering committee shall annually submit, on or before March 1, to the  
210 joint committee on higher education and the house and senate committees on ways and means a  
211 report detailing the results of all PACE initiatives undertaken during the prior year. Monies  
212 saved as a result of initiatives undertaken pursuant to this section shall supplement, not offset, or  
213 reduce state appropriations provided to the university of Massachusetts, the state universities,  
214 and the community colleges, and shall be used by the institutions to reduce the cost of education  
215 for students attending these institutions.

216 SECTION 10. Paragraph (B) of section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as  
217 appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following clause:-

218 (t) take all necessary actions, including connecting individuals with education  
219 opportunity coordinators established in section 22B of chapter 15A, to ensure that individuals  
220 receiving cash assistance through transitional aid to families with dependent children may  
221 engage in community college programs where assessment shows their chances of achieving  
222 long-term careers will improve.

223 SECTION 11. The second sentence of section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws,  
224 as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 5, after the  
225 word “accredited”, the words:- public or nonprofit.

226 SECTION 12. Section 2SSS of said chapter 29, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
227 striking out the penultimate sentence, in lines 25-26, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the  
228 following sentence:- The amount of the award shall be applied towards student financial need in

229 excess of the financial need met by other federal and state grants without regard to the amount  
230 that may be available through loans.

231 SECTION 13. Said chapter 29 is hereby further amended by inserting after section  
232 2QQQQ the following section:-

233 2RRRR. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
234 separate fund to be known as the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as  
235 the fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies  
236 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited thereto. Middlesex  
237 Community College, hereinafter referred to as the college, shall hold the fund in an account or  
238 accounts separate from other funds or accounts; provided, that the fund shall be administered by  
239 the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office. Amounts credited to the fund shall be  
240 used by the college, without further appropriation, to carry out the purposes of the fund as set  
241 forth in this section. Any monies unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the  
242 fund and may be expended by the college without further appropriation.

243 (b) The fund shall be used to provide and fund employment opportunities for students  
244 enrolled in a certificate or two-year associate's degree program at any community college who  
245 receive cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children.

246 (c) Both full-time and part-time students shall be eligible for funds under this section;  
247 provided, that full-time students shall have first priority for funds; provided, further that a full-  
248 time student shall not displace a part-time student, if the part-time student is already receiving  
249 funds under this section.

250 (d) Funds expended shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be for jobs at: (1) the community  
251 college; (2) an off-campus placement that provides career development opportunities that are  
252 related to the student's course of study; or (3) an off-campus community service placement as  
253 defined in subsection (f).

254 (e) The share from funds distributed shall not exceed 80 percent of the total compensation  
255 paid to students, with the exception of jobs at the community college the student attends, or that  
256 provide career development opportunities related to the student's course of study. Employers  
257 shall pay the costs of any employee benefits, including all payments due as an employer's  
258 contribution under the state workman's compensation laws, federal Social Security laws, and  
259 other applicable laws. The federal work-study program shall not be used to provide the  
260 employer's share of student compensation.

261 (f) An off-campus community service placement shall include direct service planning,  
262 career development or applied research that is designed to improve the quality of life for  
263 residents of the community served, particularly low-income residents, in such fields as health  
264 care, child care, education, literacy training, welfare, social services, public safety, crime  
265 prevention and control, transportation, recreation, housing and neighborhood improvement, rural  
266 development, and community improvement. Placements shall be identified by the Massachusetts  
267 Community Colleges Executive Office through formal or informal consultation with local  
268 nonprofit, governmental, and community-based organizations.

269 The placement shall not be at an organization for whom a substantial portion of its  
270 mission is political activities, including but not limited to electing candidates, influencing ballot  
271 questions, and raising money for political campaigns.

272 (g) Students shall be paid the rate of pay as compared to entry-level salaries and wages  
273 provided other employees engaged in similar work, provided total applicant resources shall be  
274 considered to ensure to the maximum extent feasible that students may remain qualified for other  
275 federal and state public assistance programs. The office may make reasonable adjustments to  
276 salaries and wages to maximize a student's participation in other federal and state public  
277 assistance programs.

278 (h) Funds shall not be expended under the program to compensate students for hours  
279 worked in excess of an average of 15 hours per week over the period of enrollment or 40 hours  
280 per week during vacation period. A student shall not be concurrently employed in the same  
281 position by the fund and the federal work-study program and exceed the 15 hours per week  
282 average.

283 (i) Students may receive academic credit for work experience gained through jobs  
284 obtained through the fund.

285 (j) Monies received from the Massachusetts TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund  
286 established in section 2RRRR of chapter 29 of the General Laws shall not count against a  
287 recipient's income, assets, or any other eligibility standard in qualifying for cash assistance  
288 benefits.

289 (k) The college and the board of higher education, hereinafter referred to as the board,  
290 shall enter a memorandum of understanding to ensure that funds are properly expended and  
291 disbursed. The college shall enter into agreements with employers, community colleges, the  
292 department of transitional assistance, and others for the operation of the fund. These agreements

293 shall include such provisions as the office may deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the  
294 purposes of this section. These agreements shall be made available to the board upon request.

295 SECTION 14. Paragraph (2) of section 2 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing  
296 in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subparagraph (Q) the  
297 following subparagraph:-

298 (R) Amounts received by an employee paid by the employer as contributions to a prepaid  
299 tuition program or college savings program established by the commonwealth or any  
300 instrumentality or authority thereof held by the employee if the contributions are made pursuant  
301 to section 82 of chapter 63 of the General Laws. The amount excluded from the gross income of  
302 an employee for the taxable year shall not exceed \$1,000.

303 SECTION 15. Section 3 B of said chapter 62, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
304 inserting after subparagraph (17) the following subparagraph:-

305 (18) In the case of single individual person or married person filing a separate return or  
306 a head of household whose gross income does not exceed \$150,000, either a deduction or a tax  
307 credit in an amount equal to the amount expended in a taxable year for the purchase of an interest  
308 in, or contributed in a taxable year to an account in, a prepaid tuition program or college savings  
309 program established by the commonwealth or any instrumentality or authority thereof; provided,  
310 that the total amount deducted in a taxable year shall not exceed \$5,000, and in the case of a tax  
311 credit, the tax credit shall not exceed \$1,250. In the case of a married couple filing a joint return  
312 whose gross income does not exceed \$300,000, either a deduction or a tax credit in an amount  
313 equal to the amount expended in a taxable year for the purchase of an interest in, or contributed  
314 in a taxable year to an account in, a prepaid tuition program or college savings program



315 established by the commonwealth or any instrumentality or authority thereof; provided, the total  
316 amount deducted in a taxable year shall not exceed \$10,000, and in the case of a tax credit, the  
317 tax credit shall not exceed \$2,500.

318 SECTION 16. Chapter 62 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
319 section 6N, the following section:-

320 Section 6O. A person filing an individual or joint return may elect to have any refund to  
321 which the person is entitled electronically deposited in an account in a prepaid tuition or college  
322 savings program established by the commonwealth or any instrumentality or authority thereof.

323 A deposit under this section may be made with respect to any taxable year at the time of  
324 filing a return of the tax established by this chapter for the taxable year. The commissioner shall  
325 prescribe the manner in which the deposit shall be made on the face of the return required by  
326 section 5 of chapter 62C. The commissioner shall consult with the Massachusetts Educational  
327 Financing Authority in carrying out this section.

328 SECTION 17. Chapter 63 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
329 section 81, the following section:-

330 Section 82. A taxpayer who, during the taxable year, makes a contribution to a prepaid  
331 tuition program or college savings program established by the commonwealth or any  
332 instrumentality or authority thereof in an amount matching a contribution to said programs made  
333 in the same taxable year by any employee of the taxpayer whose income does not exceed 200 per  
334 cent of the federal poverty level shall be allowed a credit against the tax liability imposed under  
335 this chapter in an amount equal to 25 per cent of that matching contribution, but not to exceed  
336 \$1,000 per contributing employee per taxable year. For partners, shareholders of Subchapter S

337 corporations, and owners of limited liability companies, if the liability company is treated as a  
338 partnership for purposes of federal and State income taxation, there is allowed a credit pursuant  
339 to this section to be determined in accordance with the determination of income and distributive  
340 share of income according to this chapter and Subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code. If the  
341 amount of the credit exceeds the tax liability for the year, the excess may be carried forward and  
342 applied to the tax liability of the 5 taxable years following the excess credit year. The tax credit  
343 shall be applied to the earliest year for which there is a tax liability. If there are credits for more  
344 than one year that are available to offset a liability, the earlier credit shall be applied first.

345           SECTION 18. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
346 section 1P the following section:-

347           Section 1Q. To equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to become self-  
348 supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding personal finances, the  
349 department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize and assist in the  
350 implementation of standards and objectives on personal financial literacy. The components of  
351 personal financial literacy covered in the standards and objectives shall include: understanding  
352 loans, borrowing money, interest, credit card debt, and online commerce; rights and  
353 responsibilities of renting or buying a home; saving, investing and planning for retirement;  
354 banking and financial services; balancing a checkbook; state and federal taxes; paying for  
355 postsecondary education; and charitable giving.

356           The department, in consultation with the advisory committee established under Section  
357 200 (b) of chapter 138 of the Acts of 2012, shall develop standards and objectives on personal  
358 financial literacy, for grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive within the existing mathematics

359 curriculum. The department shall make available to school districts, charter schools, approved  
360 private day or residential schools, and collaborative schools a list of resources to aid in the  
361 selection of materials and curriculum on personal financial literacy. The department shall  
362 identify and offer information on cost-effective methods for fulfilling the professional  
363 development activities needed to implement said standards and objectives. The department may  
364 consult with private, nonprofit, or other government institutions in order to identify and offer  
365 said information. The department may apply for any federal, state, or other funding, including  
366 funding available through the Financial Literacy Trust Fund, as established by section 35QQ of  
367 chapter 10 of the General Laws, as amended by Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2011.

368           SECTION 19. (a) There shall be a licensed certified social worker student education loan  
369 repayment pilot program, hereinafter referred to as the pilot program, for the purpose of  
370 increasing and retaining access to child welfare services and social services in the  
371 commonwealth. The pilot program shall provide financial assistance to eligible program  
372 participants to assist them in repaying student education loans, as defined in this section;  
373 provided, that the pilot program shall be limited to a total of 100 licensed certified social  
374 workers. The pilot program shall be administered by the board of higher education established  
375 under section 4 of chapter 15A of the General Laws. The board, in collaboration with the  
376 executive office of health and human services, shall promulgate guidelines governing the pilot  
377 program. The guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to, the following provisions: (1)  
378 eligibility shall be limited to persons with incomes that do not exceed 500% of the federal  
379 poverty level; (2) eligibility shall be limited to persons entering the field of social work after July  
380 1, 2014; (3) eligibility shall be limited to social workers who are licensed certified social workers  
381 as defined in section 130 of chapter 112 of the General Laws and who are employed in child

382 welfare, or in a geographic or programmatic setting defined as high need under the guidelines  
383 governing the pilot program; (4) the commonwealth shall repay a student education loan at a rate  
384 not to exceed \$250 per month for a period not to exceed 48 months; (5) payments by the  
385 commonwealth shall be made directly to the lender on behalf of a pilot program participant, and  
386 shall cover only loan payments owed by the participant in the months during which the  
387 participant works in the commonwealth as a licensed certified social worker in child welfare, or  
388 in a geographic or programmatic setting defined as high need under pilot program guidelines; (6)  
389 procedures for selecting 100 pilot program participants among eligible applicants; and (7)  
390 measures to deal with situations in which a pilot program participant ceases to comply with  
391 program requirements. For the purposes of this section, the term student education loan shall  
392 mean any indebtedness, including interest on such indebtedness, incurred to pay tuition, fees or  
393 other direct expenses incurred in connection with the pursuit of an undergraduate or graduate  
394 degree by an applicant, but shall not include loans made by any person related to the applicant,  
395 or loans paid by credit card.

396 (b) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate  
397 fund to be known as the Licensed Certified Social Worker Student Education Loan Repayment  
398 Pilot Program Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Licensed Certified Social Worker  
399 Education Loan Repayment Fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations or other monies  
400 authorized by the general court and designated to be credited thereto. The board of higher  
401 education shall hold the Licensed Certified Social Worker Education Loan Repayment Fund in  
402 an account separate from other funds or accounts. Amounts credited to the Licensed Certified  
403 Social Worker Education Loan Repayment Fund shall be used, without further appropriation, by

404 the commissioner of higher education or his designee, to carry out the licensed certified social  
405 worker student education loan repayment pilot program established in this section.

406 (c) The licensed certified social worker student education loan repayment pilot program  
407 shall expire once the final payment is made under this section by the board of higher education  
408 on behalf of all pilot program participants. The board of higher education shall evaluate the  
409 effectiveness of the pilot program and its benefits and costs to the commonwealth and shall  
410 submit a report, together with its recommendations on whether a permanent program should be  
411 established and if so how such program should be structured, to the house and senate committees  
412 on ways and means and the joint committee on higher education, not less than one year prior to  
413 the expiration of the pilot program.

414 SECTION 20. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a portion  
415 of the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section 2SSS of chapter 29 of  
416 the General Laws, as determined by the department of workforce development and the board of  
417 higher education, shall be used for a “Supports for Success” pilot program to assist grant  
418 recipients complete their degree or certificate programs; provided, that supports provided  
419 through said pilot may include, but need not be limited to, intensive advising and counseling,  
420 college and career success courses, work study jobs in the students’ field of study, learning  
421 communities, curricula redesign to support blended or accelerated remediation, mentoring or  
422 tutoring, and child care and transportation assistance.

423 (b) On or before December 1 of each year, the department of workforce development and  
424 the board of higher education shall submit to the the chairs of house and senate committees on  
425 ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on higher education a report on use in the

426 prior fiscal year of the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section 2SSS of  
427 chapter 29 of the General Laws; provided, that such report shall include, but need not be limited  
428 to, the number of grants awarded, the amount of each grant, the level of educational attainment  
429 of grant recipients before the grant was awarded, degrees and certificates awarded to recipients,  
430 recipient demographic information, recipient retention rates while receiving the grant, and  
431 analysis of the strengths and areas of needed improvement in the Educational Rewards Grant  
432 Program and the “Supports for Success” pilot program and recommendations for such  
433 improvements.

434 SECTION 21. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the board  
435 of higher education shall establish a pilot program to promote student employment partnerships  
436 between graduates of public and private institutions of higher education in the state and the  
437 state’s business community. The board shall establish rules and regulations governing the  
438 implementation and administration of the pilot program, including, but not limited to, any  
439 income eligibility requirements for participating students. The pilot program shall consist of not  
440 more than 3 public institutions of higher education and not more than 2 private institutions of  
441 higher education in the state, and not more than 5 business entities in the state selected by the  
442 board of higher education in consultation with the secretary of housing and economic  
443 development. Business entities may consist of, but need not be limited to, employers from the  
444 financial services, life sciences, high technology, and health care industries. Not more than 100  
445 students may participate in the pilot program. Students eligible to participate in the program  
446 shall be in good academic standing at one of the institutions selected to participate in the  
447 program, and must have obtained fifty percent or more of the credits needed to graduate.

448 (b) Business entities selected to participate in the pilot program shall supplement a  
449 percentage of a participating student's tuition and fees, and in providing this assistance shall  
450 receive a 20% state income tax credit on the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees paid by the  
451 participating business entity. In exchange for receiving tuition and fee assistance from a  
452 participating entity, graduating students shall agree to work in the state for the business entity for  
453 an agreed upon period of time, which shall not exceed 24 months. In the event a participating  
454 student is unable to perform work for the business entity upon graduation, the student shall  
455 refund all or a portion of the financial assistance provided by the business entity, unless the  
456 student's failure to perform is based upon a condition or conditions set forth by the board,  
457 including, but not limited to, the inability of the business entity to provide the agreed upon  
458 employment. If upon a participating student's graduation, the business entity is not able to  
459 provide the agreed upon employment for the student, the business entity shall reimburse the state  
460 for the amount of the tax credit the business entity received for the student.

461 (c) Not later than 3 years after the commencement of the pilot program, the board of  
462 higher education shall file a report with the house and senate committee on ways and means, and  
463 the joint committees on higher education, and revenue detailing the results of the pilot program  
464 and any recommendations as to whether the program should be continued or expanded.

465 SECTION 22. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
466 otherwise requires, have the following meanings:

467 (1) "Application", an application for a matching grant under the pilot program.

468 (2) "Authority", the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority established  
469 under Chapter 803 of the Acts of 1982, as amended.

470 (3) "Federal poverty level", the most recent poverty income guidelines published  
471 in the calendar year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

472 (4) "Participant", a qualified individual or family who has been approved for a  
473 matching grant under the pilot program.

474 (5) " Pilot Program", the lower income family postsecondary education savings  
475 incentive matching grant pilot program established by this section.

476 (6) "Qualified individual or family", an individual or family who resides within  
477 the state of Massachusetts and whose household income is not more than 250% of the federal  
478 poverty level for the tax year prior to the year in which the application is submitted.

479 (b) There shall be a lower income family postsecondary education savings incentive  
480 matching grant pilot program, herein referred to as the pilot program. The purpose of the pilot  
481 program is to help lower income individuals and families save for postsecondary education  
482 through prepaid tuition programs or college savings accounts established by the Authority by  
483 providing a state matching grant for the savings.

484 (c) The Authority shall:

485 (1) Implement and administer the pilot program, and may enter into any contracts  
486 or agreements with other entities it deems necessary to assist in developing and carrying out the  
487 pilot program;

488 (2) Develop marketing plans, educational and promotional material for the pilot  
489 program;



490 (3) Prescribe the procedure for, and requirements relating to, the submission and  
491 approval of applications;

492 (4) Adopt any rules and regulations and policies deemed necessary for  
493 implementation and administration of the pilot program; and

494 (5) Do all things necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this section.

495 (d) Applications shall be submitted to the Authority in the manner and form required by  
496 the Authority. Applications shall be accompanied by any information deemed necessary by the  
497 Authority. Applications, with proof of income, must be submitted each year using the applicant's  
498 household income from the previous tax year.

499 (e) The Authority may approve up to a total of 250 applications. Applications shall be  
500 approved on a first come, first served basis. The Authority shall provide written notice, to an  
501 applicant, of the approval or non-approval of the person's application.

502 (f) The amount of contributions made to an account by a participant who establishes a  
503 prepaid tuition program or college savings account with the Authority shall be matched by the  
504 state if the participant contributes at least \$150 during the calendar year for which the application  
505 has been approved. The aggregate of all matching amounts for any participant shall not exceed  
506 \$1,000 in any calendar year.

507 (g) The Authority shall deposit in the prepaid tuition program or college savings account  
508 of each participant the amount determined by the Authority to meet the matching obligation due  
509 to the participant under subsection (f) for the preceding calendar year.

510 (h) The Authority shall ensure that all withdrawals of matching funds are used for  
511 postsecondary education.

512 (i) Not later than 5 years after the commencement of the pilot program, the Authority  
513 shall submit to the secretary of administration and finance, the house and senate committees on  
514 ways and means, and the joint committee on higher education a report evaluating the impact of  
515 the pilot program. The report shall include the number of accounts opened under the pilot  
516 program, the amount of moneys contributed to accounts by the participants, the average income  
517 of the participants, an analysis of the success of the pilot program in meeting the purpose of the  
518 pilot program, a recommendation as to whether the pilot program should be continued or  
519 expanded, and any other information deemed appropriate by the Authority.

520 (j) Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, monies deposited in a  
521 prepaid tuition program or college savings account established under this section shall not count  
522 against any recipient's income, assets, or any other eligibility standard in qualifying for any  
523 benefits under Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or other state programs,  
524 including, but not limited to, housing, fuel assistance, health care, or student financial aid  
525 whether in the form of scholarships, grants, tuition or fee waivers, loans or any other state  
526 assistance in paying for postsecondary education.

527 (k) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate  
528 fund to be known as the Lower Income Family Postsecondary Education Savings Incentive  
529 Matching Grant Pilot Program Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as the fund, to which shall be  
530 credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies authorized by the general court and  
531 specifically designated to be credited thereto. The Authority, shall hold the fund in an account or

532 accounts separate from other funds or accounts. Amounts credited to the fund shall be used by  
533 the Authority, without further appropriation, to carry out the lower income family postsecondary  
534 education savings incentive matching grant pilot program. Appropriations unexpended at the  
535 end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and may be expended by the Authority without  
536 further appropriation.

537           SECTION 23. The department of higher education shall study and make  
538 recommendations on the “Pay It Forward, Pay It Back” concept for financing postsecondary  
539 education whereby, in lieu of paying any tuition or fees, students would sign a binding  
540 commitment to pay the state or the state’s public higher educational institutions a certain  
541 percentage of their annual income for a specified number of years following graduation. The  
542 study shall examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a program to implement the  
543 concept in the commonwealth at the state’s public higher education institutions, and shall  
544 include, but not be limited to, the following: the costs, sources of funding, including, but not  
545 limited, state appropriations, use of state bond funds, or pooling of private investment funds,  
546 impact on students, and the impact on existing state funding for the operation of the state’s  
547 public higher education institutions, and on state scholarships and grants. The department shall  
548 also ascertain the impact any state laws, including, but not limited to, the state constitution and  
549 case law regarding annual appropriations of state funds, pledge of the commonwealth’s credit,  
550 and the ability of one legislature to bind future legislatures would have on the feasibility of a  
551 establishing and funding a program to implement the concept in the state. In so doing, the  
552 department shall consult with persons it deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the  
553 state’s bond counsel and the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority. The department  
554 shall report its findings and recommendations to the board of higher education, the joint

555 committee on higher education, and the house and senate committees on ways and means on or  
556 before December 31, 2017.

557           SECTION 24. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
558 commonwealth shall appropriate in addition to the amounts provided for the ordinary  
559 maintenance of the university of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community  
560 colleges in line items 7100-0200, 7109-0100, 7110-0100, 7112-0100, 7113-0100, 7114-0100,  
561 7115-0100, 7116-0100, 7117-0100, 7118-0100, 7502-0100, 7503-0100, 7504-0100, 7505-0100,  
562 7506-0100, 7507-0100, 7508-0100, 7509-0100, 7510-0100, 7511-0100, 7512-0100, 7514-0100,  
563 7515-0100, 7516-0100, 7518-0100 in the general appropriations act for fiscal year 2016, the total  
564 amount of such appropriations shall be increased as follows: in fiscal year 2017, by a total of not  
565 less than an additional \$95,000,000; in fiscal year 2018, by a total of not less than an additional  
566 \$95,000,000; in fiscal year 2019, by a total of not less than an additional \$95,000,000; in fiscal  
567 year 2020, by a total of not less than an additional \$95,000,000; and in fiscal year 2021, by a  
568 total of not less than an additional \$95,000,000. The dollar amounts specified in this paragraph  
569 shall be increased to reflect any increases in inflation and collective bargaining increases. If the  
570 additional funds required under this paragraph are provided in each fiscal year to the university  
571 of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community colleges, each institution receiving  
572 sufficient additional funding shall freeze tuition and mandatory curriculum fee increases for the  
573 academic year during which the funding is provided.

574           SECTION 25. Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, the  
575 commonwealth shall appropriate in addition to the amount provided for scholarships and  
576 financial aid in line item 7070-0065 in the general appropriations act for fiscal year 2016, the  
577 total amount of such appropriation shall be increased as follows: in fiscal year 2017, by a total

578 of not less than an additional \$42,000,000; in fiscal year 2018, by a total of not less than an  
579 additional \$42,000,000; in fiscal year 2019, by a total of not less than an additional \$42,000,000;  
580 in fiscal year 2020, by a total of not less than an additional \$42,000,000; and in fiscal year 2021,  
581 by a total of not less than an additional \$42,000,000. The additional funding required by this  
582 paragraph shall be made available for the so-called MASSGrant program administered by the  
583 board of higher education.

584           SECTION 26. The president of the university of Massachusetts, in consultation with the  
585 chair of the board of trustees of the university and the chancellors of the campuses, shall develop  
586 a funding formula to determine the allocation of state appropriations received by the university in  
587 the annual state budget to the individual campuses. The formula shall consist of two parts: base  
588 funding and performance funding. Base funding shall be based upon and allocated on factors  
589 relating to the cost of operation. Performance funding shall be based upon and allocated on  
590 factors relating to outcomes. At undergraduate campuses, the outcome afforded the most weight  
591 for performance funding shall be increasing the number of students who complete their degrees;  
592 provided that, additional points shall be given for graduating students who might have been  
593 considered at-risk of not completing their education, including students from lower income  
594 households, African-American students, Latino students, adult students, students with severe  
595 disabilities, and those who may have been less academically prepared upon entry. Additional  
596 performance outcomes may be included in the formula as deemed relevant to the mission of the  
597 university, and for the university of Massachusetts medical school. The funding formula may be  
598 updated as needed from time to time, and shall be available for use commencing with the fiscal  
599 year 2017 annual budget. The president shall file the funding formula with the executive office

600 for administration and finance, the senate and house committees on ways and means, and the  
601 joint committee on higher education.

602 SECTION 27. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all tuition  
603 received by the boards of trustees of each of the state universities and community colleges paid  
604 by students attending the state universities and community colleges who reside in the state shall  
605 be retained by the respective board of trustees in a revolving trust fund and shall be expended as  
606 the administration of the respective state university or community college directs. Any balance  
607 in the trust fund at the close of the fiscal years shall be available for expenditures in subsequent  
608 fiscal years and shall not revert to the General Fund. For any employees of the state universities  
609 and community colleges who are paid from tuition retained pursuant to this section, fringe  
610 benefits shall be funded as if those employees' salaries were supported by state appropriations.  
611 This section shall apply only to fringe benefits associated with salaries paid from tuition retained  
612 by the boards of trustees of the state universities and community colleges as a direct result of the  
613 implementation of this section.

614 SECTION 28. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the  
615 contrary, not later than the start of the fall semester of 2018 and for each semester thereafter, if a  
616 public institution of higher education determines, by use of multiple commonly accepted  
617 measures of skill level, that a student is likely to succeed in college level work with supplemental  
618 support, the public institution of higher education shall offer the student remedial support that is  
619 embedded with the corresponding entry level course in a college level program. The embedded  
620 support shall be offered during the same semester as and in conjunction with the entry level  
621 course for purposes of providing the student with supplemental support in the entry level course.

622 (b) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2018 and for each semester thereafter, if  
623 a public institution of higher education determines, by use of multiple commonly accepted  
624 measures of skill level, that a student is below the skill level required for success in college level  
625 work, the public institution of higher education shall offer the student the opportunity to  
626 participate in an intensive college readiness program before the start of the next semester. The  
627 student shall complete the intensive college readiness program prior to receiving embedded  
628 remedial support, as provided in subsection (a) of this section. The board of higher education, in  
629 consultation with the university of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community  
630 colleges, shall develop options for an intensive college readiness program.

631 (c) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2018 and for each semester thereafter,  
632 no public institution of higher education shall offer any remedial support, including remedial  
633 courses, that is not embedded with the corresponding entry level course, as required pursuant to  
634 subsection (a) of this section, or offered as part of an intensive college readiness program, except  
635 the institution may offer a student a maximum of one semester of remedial support that is not  
636 embedded, provided (1) the support is intended to advance the student toward earning a degree,  
637 and (2) the program of remedial support is approved by the board of higher education.

638 (d) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2018 and for each semester thereafter,  
639 board of higher education and the board of elementary and secondary education shall complete  
640 curricular alignment to enable the successful completion of the high school mathematics and  
641 language arts curricula, as described in Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for English  
642 Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics as adopted by the board of elementary and secondary  
643 education, to be the indicator of readiness for college level work. A public institution of higher  
644 education may use available evaluation instruments to assess adults, who are returning to or first

645 enrolling in a higher education program at a public institution of higher education after spending  
646 time in the workforce, for readiness for college level work.

647 (e) Not later than the start of the school year commencing July 1, 2018, and for each  
648 school year thereafter, the board of higher education shall ensure that each public institution of  
649 higher education works with the department of elementary of secondary education and the local  
650 and regional school districts to (1) use available evaluation methods for early assessment of the  
651 potential for college readiness of each student enrolled in the eighth and tenth grades in a public  
652 school, and (2) share the results of the assessment with the student, the student's parents or legal  
653 guardian and the public school in which the student is enrolled.