

**SENATE . . . . . No. 678**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Michael O. Moore***

*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 strengthening and expanding affordable, quality higher education opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmin L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 678**

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By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, 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. Higher Education.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to strengthening and expanding affordable, quality higher education opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to assist in providing forthwith affordable postsecondary educational opportunities for residents of the commonwealth, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*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. Section 1 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the 3rd paragraph, the following  
3 paragraph:- It is hereby further declared to be the policy of the commonwealth to ensure that the  
4 university of Massachusetts, each state university, and each community college has at its  
5 disposal adequate funds to provide, foster and support high quality institutions of public higher  
6 education that serve the interests of the commonwealth and its citizens in the manner described  
7 in this section. For that purpose, it is hereby further declared to be the policy of the  
8 commonwealth to make annually to the university of Massachusetts, each state university, and  
9 each community college appropriations which, with all other unrestricted funds that are

10 available, in the case of each, for expenditure in the conduct of its affairs and the support of its  
11 mission, are sufficient to fully fund its operating requirements. It is hereby further declared to be  
12 the policy of the commonwealth to provide adequate funds to the university of Massachusetts,  
13 each state university, and each community college for capital needs including the repair,  
14 renovation, construction, reconstruction, improvement, demolition, expansion, acquisition,  
15 furnishing, or equipping of buildings, structures, facilities and other infrastructure, including, but  
16 not limited to technology infrastructure, necessary to maintain high quality institutions of higher  
17 education.

18           SECTION 2. Section 9 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
19 inserting after the word “education”, in line 229, the following:- ; and (hh) to build and  
20 maintain, in conjunction with the university of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the  
21 community colleges, a transfer system providing individual students with clear and consistent  
22 information on the student’s progress toward fulfilling degree requirements in any undergraduate  
23 program at any public institution of higher education in the state; provided, that the system shall  
24 include a standard core of course offering and numbering that are honored for common credit  
25 toward degrees and certificates across the commonwealth’s public institutions of higher  
26 education, and course-to-course equivalencies across these institutions that will enable students  
27 to transfer from one public institution of higher education to another without loss of credit;  
28 provided further, that the board shall coordinate the implementation of the system and all public  
29 institutions of higher education institutions in the state shall utilize the system for all  
30 undergraduate programs and course offerings; provided further, that the board, in consultation  
31 with the University of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community colleges, shall

32 determine the form in which all data and course equivalencies shall be submitted by these  
33 institutions.

34 SECTION 3. Section 9 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby by further  
35 amended by adding the following paragraph:- All postsecondary educational institutions  
36 offering courses and programs leading to degrees or certificates to residents of the  
37 commonwealth shall provide uniform student financial aid information to every prospective  
38 student who has been accepted for admission to the institution. Each institution shall provide  
39 this information prior to the institution's enrollment deadline for purposes of providing each  
40 student with time to make an informed decision about enrollment. Each institution shall use the  
41 financial aid shopping sheet or such other standardized document developed by the U.S.  
42 Department of Education to provide this information. Each institution annually shall post on its  
43 website a list and description of all scholarships, grants, or other funds that do not have to be  
44 paid back that are available at the institution to assist students in paying for their education.  
45 Each institution shall inform students about any income based loan repayment programs and  
46 public interest or other loan forgiveness programs available for borrowers of student loans. In  
47 addition, all public institutions of higher education in the state shall work with American Student  
48 Assistance through its SALT or other programs and the Massachusetts Educational Financing  
49 Authority to provide financial literacy for students attending these institutions.

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

54 SECTION 4. Section 15F of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
55 inserting in lines 11, 20, 21 23, 27, 30, and 33, after the word “credit”, the words:-and for-credit.

56 SECTION 5. Section 16 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
57 adding the following paragraph:- No state scholarship funds under this section, any other section  
58 of this chapter, or other state student financial aid however provided, shall be made available to,  
59 or on behalf, of any student enrolled in any postsecondary educational institution which the  
60 board of higher education determines does not meet the requirements of this paragraph. To  
61 meet the requirements of this paragraph, a postsecondary educational institution shall  
62 demonstrate to the board that it has: (a) not more than 40% of its undergraduate students  
63 borrowing student loans; (b) graduation rates of not less than 30% for undergraduate students  
64 taking 150% or less of the expected time to complete degree requirements, as most recently  
65 reported by the U.S. Department of Higher Education, provided, that graduation rates shall  
66 include students who transfer; or (c) an average 3 year cohort default rate that is not more than  
67 20%, as most recently reported by the U.S. Department of Education. The board of higher  
68 education shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this paragraph including, but not  
69 limited to, procedures and processes for annually determining which postsecondary educational  
70 institutions meet the requirements of this paragraph, and a process for an institution to appeal a  
71 determination that they do not meet the necessary requirements. The board of higher education  
72 shall annually post a list of institutions that meet the requirements of this paragraph on the  
73 department of higher education’s website. No state scholarship funds under this section, any  
74 other section of this chapter, or other state student financial aid however provided, that is made  
75 available to, or on behalf, of any student enrolled in any for-profit postsecondary educational  
76 institution shall be used for purposes of marketing or advertising.

77 SECTION 6. Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
78 section 42, the following section:-

79 Section 43. There shall be a Partnership to Advance Collaboration and Efficiency, herein  
80 referred to as PACE. The purposes of PACE shall be to foster collaborations that promote  
81 operational efficiencies, cost savings, increased productivity, and increase and enhance high  
82 quality higher education opportunities for residents of the commonwealth at the public  
83 institutions of higher education set forth in section 5. Initiatives undertaken by PACE shall  
84 include, but not be limited to, cooperative efforts directed at increasing joint purchasing,  
85 expanding shared services, increasing innovative measures for delivering higher education, and  
86 enhancing academic opportunities for students. PACE shall be governed by a steering  
87 committee consisting of the following: the president of the university of Massachusetts; 2  
88 persons from the university of Massachusetts appointed by the president to serve for terms not  
89 exceeding 4 years, as the president may determine; 3 presidents of the state universities to be  
90 selected by vote of the presidents of the 9 state universities conducted at least once every 4 years;  
91 3 presidents of the community colleges to be selected by vote of the presidents of the 15  
92 community colleges to be conducted at least once every 4 years; and the commissioner of higher  
93 education. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the steering committee  
94 may hire staff, enter into contracts, interagency or other agreements, apply for federal, state, or  
95 other grants, establish subcommittees, and do whatever it deems necessary to carry out the  
96 purposes of PACE. The steering committee shall annually submit, on or before March 1, to the  
97 joint committee on higher education and the house and senate committees on ways and means a  
98 report detailing the results of all PACE initiatives undertaken during the prior year. Monies  
99 saved as a result of initiatives undertaken pursuant to this section shall supplement, not offset, or

100 reduce state appropriations provided to the university of Massachusetts, the state universities,  
101 and the community colleges, and shall be used by the institutions to reduce the cost of education  
102 for students attending these institutions.

103 SECTION 7. Paragraph (B) of section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as amended  
104 by section 1 of chapter 65 of the acts of 2013, is hereby amended by adding the following 2  
105 clauses:-

106 (m) take all necessary actions, including connecting individuals with education  
107 opportunity coordinators established in section 5, to ensure that individuals receiving cash  
108 assistance through transitional aid to families with dependent children may engage in community  
109 college programs where assessment shows their chances of achieving long-term careers will  
110 improve.

111 (n) annually file a report with the chairs of the joint committee on higher education, the  
112 joint committee on children, families, and persons with disabilities, and the house and senate  
113 committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to:- (1) information  
114 regarding the efficacy of community college placements in developing careers for recipients of  
115 cash assistance; (2) the number of recipients enrolled in certificate or two-year degree programs  
116 at community colleges; (3) the number of recipients enrolled in a certificate or two-year degree  
117 program receiving grants under the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund established in section  
118 2LLLL of chapter 29; (4) graduation rates of recipients of cash assistance enrolled full time in a  
119 certificate or two-year degree program; (5) employment rates of former recipients 6 months after  
120 completing a degree or certificate program; and (6) employment rates of former recipients 1 year  
121 after completing a degree or certificate program. No personal identifying information shall be

122 used in the report. The first report shall be filed on or before August 1 two years after the  
123 TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund is established and annually, on or before August 1, after  
124 that.

125 SECTION 8. Section 5 of said chapter 18, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding  
126 the following paragraph:-

127 The commissioner shall establish education opportunity coordinator positions within the  
128 department. The coordinators shall work with recipients of cash assistance through transitional  
129 aid to families with dependent children who enroll in community colleges for the purpose of  
130 earning a certificate or two-year degree. The coordinators shall work with recipients, community  
131 colleges, and case managers. Coordinators shall provide focused assistance to recipients  
132 including but not limited to developing career plans, identifying a program of study, accessing  
133 financial aid and work study, and helping obtain other supports such as childcare and  
134 transportation assistance. The commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding  
135 with the community colleges to ensure coordinators execute the duties of this paragraph. Each  
136 community college shall have at least 1 on-campus coordinator.

137 SECTION 9. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
138 section 2K K K K the following section:-

139 2L L L L. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
140 separate fund to be known as the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as  
141 the fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies  
142 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited thereto. Middlesex  
143 Community College, hereinafter referred to as the college, shall hold the fund in an account or



144 accounts separate from other funds or accounts; provided, however, that the fund shall be  
145 administered by the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office. Appropriations  
146 unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and may be expended without  
147 further appropriation.

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

151 (c) Funds shall be expended to reimburse or pay students receiving cash assistance under  
152 transitional aid to families with dependent children and enrolled full time in a certificate or two-  
153 year associate's degree program at any community college, provided students may continue to  
154 qualify for reimbursement or payment for up to 3 months after the student's cash assistance  
155 under transitional aid to families with dependent children expires if the student is still  
156 matriculated.

157 (d) Funds expended shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be for jobs at an off-campus  
158 community service placement as defined in subsection (f), at the college the student attends, or  
159 that provide career development opportunities. For any funds expended for profit-making off-  
160 campus employers, said employer shall conduct business in the commonwealth and shall, to the  
161 greatest extent feasible, provide demonstrable benefit to the student's academic or vocational  
162 pursuits.

163 (e) The share from funds distributed shall not exceed 80 percent of the total compensation  
164 paid to students, with the exception of off-campus community service placements as defined in  
165 subsection (f). Employers shall pay the costs of any employee benefits including all payments

166 due as an employer's contribution under the state workman's compensation laws, federal Social  
167 Security laws, and other applicable laws. The federal work-study program shall not be used to  
168 provide the employer's share of student compensation.

169 (f) An off-campus community service placement shall include direct service planning,  
170 career development, or applied research that is designed to improve the quality of life for  
171 residents of the community served, particularly low-income residents, in such fields as health  
172 care, child care, education, literacy training, welfare, social services, public safety, crime  
173 prevention and control, transportation, recreation, housing and neighborhood improvement, rural  
174 development, and community improvement. Placements shall be identified by the college  
175 through formal or informal consultation with local nonprofit, governmental, and community-  
176 based organizations.

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

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

186 (h) Funds shall not be expended under the program to compensate students for hours  
187 worked in excess of an average of 15 hours per week over the period of enrollment or 30 hours

188 per week during vacation period. A student shall not be concurrently employed in the same  
189 position by the fund and the federal work-study program and exceed the 15 hours per week  
190 average.

191 (i) Students may receive academic credit for work experience gained through fund jobs.

192 (j) Students who fail to remain on target to graduate or earn a certificate in the regular  
193 duration of a full-time student may no longer be eligible for monies from the fund, subject to the  
194 discretion of the commissioner.

195 (k) Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, monies received from the  
196 Massachusetts TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund established in Section 2LLLL of chapter 29  
197 of the General Laws shall not count against a recipient's income, assets, or any other eligibility  
198 standard in qualifying for cash assistance benefits.

199 (l) The college and the board of higher education shall enter a memorandum of  
200 understanding to ensure that funds are properly expended and disbursed. The college shall enter  
201 into agreements with employers, community colleges, the department of transitional assistance,  
202 and others for the operation of the fund. These agreements shall include such provisions as the  
203 office may deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section. These  
204 agreements shall be made available to the board upon request.

205 SECTION 10. The second sentence of section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws,  
206 as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 5, after the  
207 word "accredited", the words:- public or nonprofit.

208 SECTION 11. Section 2SSS of said chapter 29, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
209 striking out the penultimate sentence, in lines 23-25, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the  
210 following sentence:- The amount of the award shall be applied towards student financial need in  
211 excess of the financial need met by other federal and state grants without regard to the amount  
212 that may be available through loans.

213 SECTION 12. Paragraph (2) of section 2 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing  
214 in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subparagraph (Q) the  
215 following subparagraph:-

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

221 SECTION 13. Paragraph (b) of Section 3 B of said chapter 62, as so appearing, is hereby  
222 amended by inserting after subparagraph (16) the following subparagraph:-

223 (17) In the case of single individual person or married person filing a separate return or a  
224 head of household whose gross income does not exceed \$150,000, either a deduction or a tax  
225 credit in an amount equal to the amount expended in a taxable year for the purchase of an interest  
226 in, or contributed in a taxable year to an account in, a prepaid tuition program or college savings  
227 program established by the commonwealth or any instrumentality or authority thereof; provided,  
228 that the total amount deducted in a taxable year shall not exceed \$5,000, and in the case of a tax  
229 credit, the tax credit shall not exceed \$1,250. In the case of a married couple filing a joint return

230 whose gross income does not exceed \$300,000, either a deduction or a tax credit in an amount  
231 equal to the amount expended in a taxable year for the purchase of an interest in, or contributed  
232 in a taxable year to an account in, a prepaid tuition program or college savings program  
233 established by the commonwealth or any instrumentality or authority thereof; provided, the total  
234 amount deducted in a taxable year shall not exceed \$10,000, and in the case of a tax credit, the  
235 tax credit shall not exceed \$2,500.

236 SECTION 14. Chapter 62 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
237 section 6N, the following section:-

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

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

246 SECTION 15. Chapter 63 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
247 section 81, the following section:-

248 Section 82. A taxpayer who, during the taxable year, makes a contribution to a prepaid  
249 tuition program or college savings program established by the commonwealth or any  
250 instrumentality or authority thereof in an amount matching a contribution to said programs made  
251 in the same taxable year by any employee of the taxpayer whose income does not exceed 200 per

252 cent of the federal poverty level shall be allowed a credit against the tax liability imposed under  
253 this chapter in an amount equal to 25 per cent of that matching contribution, but not to exceed  
254 \$1,000 per contributing employee per taxable year. For partners, shareholders of Subchapter S  
255 corporations, and owners of limited liability companies, if the liability company is treated as a  
256 partnership for purposes of federal and State income taxation, there is allowed a credit pursuant  
257 to this section to be determined in accordance with the determination of income and distributive  
258 share of income according to this chapter and Subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code. If the  
259 amount of the credit exceeds the tax liability for the year, the excess may be carried forward and  
260 applied to the tax liability of the 5 taxable years following the excess credit year. The tax credit  
261 shall be applied to the earliest year for which there is a tax liability. If there are credits for more  
262 than one year that are available to offset a liability, the earlier credit shall be applied first.

263 SECTION 16. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
264 section 1N the following section:-

265 Section 1O. To equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to become self-  
266 supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding personal finances, the  
267 department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize and assist in the  
268 implementation of standards and objectives on personal financial literacy. The components of  
269 personal financial literacy covered in the standards and objectives shall include: understanding  
270 loans, borrowing money, interest, credit card debt, and online commerce; rights and  
271 responsibilities of renting or buying a home; saving, investing and planning for retirement;  
272 banking and financial services; balancing a checkbook; state and federal taxes; paying for  
273 postsecondary education; and charitable giving.

274           The department, in consultation with the advisory committee established under Section  
275 200 (b) of chapter 138 of the Acts of 2012, shall develop standards and objectives on personal  
276 financial literacy, for grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive, within the existing mathematics  
277 curriculum for implementation by the start of the 2016-2017 school year. The department shall  
278 make available to school districts, charter schools, approved private day or residential schools,  
279 and collaborative schools a list of resources to aid in the selection of materials and curriculum on  
280 personal financial literacy. The department shall identify and offer information on cost-effective  
281 methods for fulfilling the professional development activities needed to implement said  
282 standards and objectives. The department may consult with private, nonprofit, or other  
283 government institutions in order to identify and offer said information. The department may  
284 apply for any federal, state, or other funding, including funding available through the Financial  
285 Literacy Trust Fund, as established by section 35QQ of chapter 10 of the General Laws, as  
286 amended by Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2011.

287           SECTION 17. Item 7066-0019 of section 2 of chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014, is hereby  
288 amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:- provided, further that funds appropriated  
289 herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016; and in said item by striking out  
290 the figures “750,000” and inserting “4,250,000”.

291           SECTION 18. Item 7066-1221 of section 2 of chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014, is hereby  
292 amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:- ; provided, further that not less than  
293 \$1,500,000 shall be expended for matching grants for credit bearing vocationally oriented  
294 courses; provided, further that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure  
295 until June 30, 2016; and in said item by striking out the figures “1,450,000”, and inserting  
296 “2,950,000”.

297 SECTION 19. Item 7070-0066 of section 2 of chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014, as  
298 amended by Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2014, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof  
299 the following:- ; provided, further that not less than \$3,000,000 shall be expended on the  
300 scholarship program for in-demand professions; and provided, further that funds appropriated  
301 herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016; and in said item by striking out  
302 the figures “2,000,000”, and inserting “3,000,000”.

303 SECTION 20. Section 2 of Chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014, is hereby amended by  
304 adding the following items:

305 Department of Transitional Assistance

306 4400-XXXX For education opportunity coordinators established in section 5 of chapter  
307 18 of the General Laws, as inserted by this act, to assist recipients of transitional aid to families  
308 with dependent children in earning a community college certificate or associate’s degree;  
309 provided, that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30,  
310 2016 .....\$1,250,000

311 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

312 XXXX-XXXX For the development and implementation of standards and curriculum  
313 on financial literacy; provided, that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for  
314 expenditure until June 30, 2016.....\$1,000,000

315 Department of Higher Education

316 7066-0115 For the purposes of continuing the implementation of section 15E of chapter  
317 15A of the General Laws to encourage private fundraising by the commonwealth’s public



318 institutions of higher education for the endowment and capital outlay programs of those  
319 institutions; provided, that the board of higher education shall implement this program in a  
320 manner which ensures that each institution shall have an opportunity to secure matching funds  
321 from this item; provided further, that \$10,000,000 shall be allocated to the university of  
322 Massachusetts; provided further, that \$5,000,000 shall be allocated to state universities; provided  
323 further, that \$5,000,000 shall be allocated to community colleges; provided further, that if any  
324 funds allocated herein for disbursement to state universities and community colleges shall be  
325 unused, the remaining funds shall be made available to the university of Massachusetts; provided  
326 further, that, to the greatest extent possible, the state universities, community colleges, and the  
327 university of Massachusetts shall utilize the funds to increase the number of scholarship  
328 opportunities for students; and provided further, that funds appropriated herein shall remain  
329 available for expenditure until June 30, 2017 .....\$20,000,000

330       XXXX-XXXX For the Education Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section  
331 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws; provided, that funds appropriated herein shall remain  
332 available for expenditure until June 30, 2016 .....\$1,500,000

333       XXXX-XXXX For the Licensed Certified Social Worker Student Education Loan  
334 Repayment Pilot Program Trust Fund established by this act; provided, that funds appropriated  
335 herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016 .....\$1,200,000

336       XXXX-XXXX For the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority to assist in  
337 carrying out the early college planning and financing efforts being undertaken by the Authority,  
338 and the lower income family postsecondary education savings incentive matching grant pilot  
339 program established by this act; provided, that not less than \$1,500,000 shall be expended for the

340 lower income family postsecondary savings incentive matching grant pilot program and shall be  
341 credited to the Lower Income Family Postsecondary Education Savings Incentive Matching  
342 Grant Pilot Program Trust Fund established by this act ; provided, further that funds appropriated  
343 herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016 .....\$2,500,000

344       XXXX-XXXX For the Completion Grant Incentive Fund Pilot Program established by  
345 the board of higher education to increase the graduation and success rates of low income students  
346 who are enrolled in certificate or degree programs by providing incentive grants to persist and to  
347 complete their degree or certificate program of study over a maximum of four years; provided,  
348 further that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016  
349 .....\$3,000,000

350       XXXX-XXXX For a pilot program to be established by the Massachusetts Educational  
351 Financing

352       Authority in accordance with section 5 of Chapter 15C of the General Laws to assist in  
353 refinancing higher education loans financed through the Authority that have higher interest rates;  
354 provided, further that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June  
355 30, 2016 .....\$10,000,000

356       XXXX-XXXX For the development and implementation of the transfer system required  
357 by section 9 (hh) of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as inserted by this act; provided, further  
358 that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016  
359 .....\$2,500,000

360       XXXX-XXXX For a community colleges internship incentive grant program to be  
361 administered by the department of higher education; provided, that the commonwealth shall

362 contribute funds to each community college in an amount to match private contributions in each  
363 fiscal year; provided further, that the commonwealth's contribution shall be equal to \$1 for every  
364 \$1 privately contributed to each community college's board of trustees or foundation; provided  
365 further, that the maximum total contribution from the commonwealth shall be no greater than the  
366 amount appropriated herein; provided further, that funds from this program shall not result in any  
367 direct or indirect reduction in the commonwealth's appropriation to the institution's operations,  
368 scholarships, financial aid or any state appropriation; provided further, the department of higher  
369 education shall establish guidelines and criteria for the administration of the program; and  
370 provided, further that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June  
371 30, 2016.....\$2,000,000

372           Community Colleges

373           7516-XXXX For the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund as established in section  
374 2LLLL of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as inserted by this act; provided, that the program  
375 shall be administered by the Middlesex Community College through its entity, the Massachusetts  
376 Community College Executive Office; provided further, that no more than \$100,000 shall be  
377 used to administer the program; and provided, further that funds appropriated herein shall remain  
378 available for expenditure until June 30, 2016..... \$1,100,000

379           SECTION 21. (a) There shall be a licensed certified social worker student education loan  
380 repayment pilot program, hereinafter referred to as the pilot program, for the purpose of  
381 increasing and retaining access to child welfare services and social services in the  
382 commonwealth. The pilot program shall provide financial assistance to eligible program  
383 participants to assist them in repaying student education loans, as defined in this section;

384 provided, that the pilot program shall be limited to a total of 100 licensed certified social  
385 workers. The pilot program shall be administered by the board of higher education established  
386 under section 4 of chapter 15A of the General Laws. The board, in collaboration with the  
387 executive office of health and human services, shall promulgate guidelines governing the pilot  
388 program. The guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to, the following provisions: (1)  
389 eligibility shall be limited to persons with incomes that do not exceed 500% of the federal  
390 poverty level; (2) eligibility shall be limited to persons entering the field of social work after July  
391 1, 2014; (3) eligibility shall be limited to social workers who are licensed certified social workers  
392 as defined in section 130 of chapter 112 of the General Laws and who are employed in child  
393 welfare, or in a geographic or programmatic setting defined as high need under the guidelines  
394 governing the pilot program; (4) the commonwealth shall repay a student education loan at a rate  
395 not to exceed \$250 per month for a period not to exceed 48 months; (5) payments by the  
396 commonwealth shall be made directly to the lender on behalf of a pilot program participant, and  
397 shall cover only loan payments owed by the participant in the months during which the  
398 participant works in the commonwealth as a licensed certified social worker in child welfare, or  
399 in a geographic or programmatic setting defined as high need under pilot program guidelines; (6)  
400 procedures for selecting 100 pilot program participants among eligible applicants; and (7)  
401 measures to deal with situations in which a pilot program participant ceases to comply with  
402 program requirements. For the purposes of this section, the term student education loan shall  
403 mean any indebtedness, including interest on such indebtedness, incurred to pay tuition, fees or  
404 other direct expenses incurred in connection with the pursuit of an undergraduate or graduate  
405 degree by an applicant, but shall not include loans made by any person related to the applicant,  
406 or loans paid by credit card.

407 (b) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate  
408 fund to be known as the Licensed Certified Social Worker Student Education Loan Repayment  
409 Pilot Program Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Licensed Certified Social Worker  
410 Education Loan Repayment Fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations or other monies  
411 authorized by the general court and designated to be credited thereto. The board of higher  
412 education shall hold the Licensed Certified Social Worker Education Loan Repayment Fund in  
413 an account separate from other funds or accounts. Amounts credited to the Licensed Certified  
414 Social Worker Education Loan Repayment Fund shall be used, without further appropriation, by  
415 the commissioner of higher education or his designee, to carry out the licensed certified social  
416 worker student education loan repayment pilot program established in this section.

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

425 SECTION 22. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a portion  
426 of the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section 2SSS of chapter 29 of  
427 the General Laws, as determined by the department of workforce development and the board of  
428 higher education, shall be used for a “Supports for Success” pilot program to assist grant  
429 recipients complete their degree or certificate programs; provided, that supports provided

430 through said pilot may include, but need not be limited to, intensive advising and counseling,  
431 college and career success courses, work study jobs in the students' field of study, learning  
432 communities, curricula redesign to support blended or accelerated remediation, mentoring or  
433 tutoring, and child care and transportation assistance.

434 (b) On or before December 1 of each year, the department of workforce development and  
435 the board of higher education shall submit to the the chairs of house and senate committees on  
436 ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on higher education a report on use in the  
437 prior fiscal year of the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section 2SSS of  
438 chapter 29 of the General Laws; provided, that such report shall include, but need not be limited  
439 to, the number of grants awarded, the amount of each grant, the level of educational attainment  
440 of grant recipients before the grant was awarded, degrees and certificates awarded to recipients,  
441 recipient demographic information, recipient retention rates while receiving the grant, and  
442 analysis of the strengths and areas of needed improvement in the Educational Rewards Grant  
443 Program and the "Supports for Success" pilot program and recommendations for such  
444 improvements.

445 SECTION 23. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the board  
446 of higher education shall establish a pilot program to promote student employment partnerships  
447 between graduates of public and private institutions of higher education in the state and the  
448 state's business community. The board shall establish rules and regulations governing the  
449 implementation and administration of the pilot program, including, but not limited to, any  
450 income eligibility requirements for participating students. The pilot program shall consist of not  
451 more than 3 public institutions of higher education and not more than 2 private institutions of  
452 higher education in the state, and not more than 5 business entities in the state selected by the

453 board of higher education in consultation with the secretary of housing and economic  
454 development. Business entities may consist of, but need not be limited to, employers from the  
455 financial services, life sciences, high technology, and health care industries. Not more than 100  
456 students may participate in the pilot program. Students eligible to participate in the program  
457 shall be in good academic standing at one of the institutions selected to participate in the  
458 program, and must have obtained fifty percent or more of the credits needed to graduate.

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

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

476 SECTION 24. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
477 otherwise requires, have the following meanings:

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

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

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

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

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

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

490 (b) There shall be a lower income family postsecondary education savings incentive  
491 matching grant pilot program. The purpose of the pilot program is to help lower income  
492 individuals and families save for postsecondary education through prepaid tuition programs or  
493 college savings accounts established by the Authority by providing a state matching grant for the  
494 savings.

495 (c) The Authority shall:



- 496 (1) Implement and administer the pilot program;
- 497 (2) Develop marketing plans and promotional material for the pilot program;
- 498 (3) Prescribe the procedure for, and requirements relating to, the submission and  
499 approval of applications;
- 500 (4) Do all things necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this section; and
- 501 (5) Adopt any rules and regulations and policies deemed necessary for implementation  
502 and administration of the pilot program.
- 503 (d) Applications shall be submitted to the Authority in the manner and form required by  
504 the Authority. Applications shall be accompanied by any information deemed necessary by the  
505 Authority. Applications, with proof of income, must be submitted each year using the applicant's  
506 household income from the previous tax year.
- 507 (e) The Authority may approve up to a total of 250 applications. Applications shall be  
508 approved on a first come, first served basis. The Authority shall provide written notice, to an  
509 applicant, of the approval or non-approval of the person's application.
- 510 (f) The amount of contributions made to an account by a participant who establishes a  
511 prepaid tuition program or college savings account with the Authority shall be matched by the  
512 state if the participant contributes at least \$150 during the calendar year for which the application  
513 has been approved. The aggregate of all matching amounts for any participant shall not exceed  
514 \$1,000 in any calendar year.

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

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

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

528 (j) Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, monies deposited in a  
529 prepaid tuition program or college savings account established under this section shall not count  
530 against any recipient's income, assets, or any other eligibility standard in qualifying for any  
531 benefits under Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or other state programs.

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

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

542           SECTION 25. The department of higher education shall study and make  
543 recommendations on the “Pay It Forward, Pay It Back” concept for financing postsecondary  
544 education whereby, in lieu of paying any tuition or fees, students would sign a binding  
545 commitment to pay the state or the state’s public higher educational institutions a certain  
546 percentage of their annual income for a specified number of years following graduation. The  
547 study shall examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a program to implement the  
548 concept in the commonwealth at the state’s public higher education institutions, and shall  
549 include, but not be limited to, the following: the costs, sources of funding, including, but not  
550 limited, state appropriations, use of state bond funds, or pooling of private investment funds,  
551 impact on students, and the impact on existing state funding for the operation of the state’s  
552 public higher education institutions, and on state scholarships and grants. The department shall  
553 also ascertain the impact any state laws, including, but not limited to, the state constitution and  
554 case law regarding annual appropriations of state funds, pledge of the commonwealth’s credit,  
555 and the ability of one legislature to bind future legislatures would have on the feasibility of a  
556 establishing and funding a program to implement the concept in the state. In so doing, the  
557 department shall consult with persons it deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the  
558 state’s bond counsel and the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority. The department  
559 shall report its findings and recommendations to the board of higher education, the joint

560 committee on higher education, and the house and senate committees on ways and means on or  
561 before December 31, 2015.

562           SECTION 26. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
563 commonwealth shall appropriate in addition to the amounts provided for the ordinary  
564 maintenance of the university of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community  
565 colleges in line items 7100-0200, 7109-0100, 7110-0100, 7112-0100, 7113-0100, 7114-0100,  
566 7115-0100, 7116-0100, 7117-0100, 7118-0100, 7502-0100, 7503-0100, 7504-0100, 7505-0100,  
567 7506-0100, 7507-0100, 7508-0100, 7509-0100, 7510-0100, 7511-0100, 7512-0100, 7514-0100,  
568 7515-0100, 7516-0100, 7518-0100 in the general appropriations act for fiscal year 2015, the total  
569 amount of such appropriations shall be increased as follows: in fiscal year 2016, by a total of not  
570 less than an additional \$95,000,000; in fiscal year 2017, by a total of not less than an additional  
571 \$95,000,000; in fiscal year 2018, by a total of not less than an additional \$95,000,000; in fiscal  
572 year 2019, by a total of not less than an additional \$95,000,000; and in fiscal year 2020, by a  
573 total of not less than an additional \$95,000,000. The dollar amounts specified in this paragraph  
574 shall be increased to reflect any increases in inflation and collective bargaining increases. If the  
575 additional funds required under this paragraph are provided in each fiscal year to the university  
576 of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community colleges, each institution receiving  
577 sufficient additional funding shall freeze tuition and mandatory curriculum fee increases for the  
578 academic year during which the funding is provided.

579           SECTION 27. Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, the  
580 commonwealth shall appropriate in addition to the amount provided for scholarships and  
581 financial aid in line item 7070-0065 in the general appropriations act for fiscal year 2015, the  
582 total amount of such appropriation shall be increased as follows: in fiscal year 2016, by a total

583 of not less than an additional \$42,000,000; in fiscal year 2017, by a total of not less than an  
584 additional \$42,000,000; in fiscal year 2018, by a total of not less than an additional \$42,000,000;  
585 in fiscal year 2019, by a total of not less than an additional \$42,000,000; and in fiscal year 2020,  
586 by a total of not less than an additional \$42,000,000. The additional funding required by this  
587 paragraph shall be made available for the so-called MASSGrant program administered by the  
588 board of higher education.

589         SECTION 28. The house and senate committees on ways and means, in consultation  
590 with the presidents of the state universities, the board of higher education, the executive office  
591 for administration and finance, and the joint committee on higher education, shall develop a  
592 funding formula to determine the allocation of state appropriations in the annual state budget to  
593 the individual state universities. The formula shall consist of two parts: base funding and  
594 performance funding. Base funding shall be based upon and allocated on factors relating to  
595 enrollment and the cost of education. Performance funding shall be based upon and allocated on  
596 factors relating to outcomes. The outcome afforded the most weight for performance funding  
597 shall be increasing the number of students who complete their degrees; provided that, additional  
598 points shall be given for graduating students who might have been considered at-risk of not  
599 completing their education, including students from lower income households, African-  
600 Americans students, Latino students, adult students, students with severe disabilities, and those  
601 who may have been less academically prepared upon entry. Additional performance outcomes  
602 as deemed relevant may be included in the formula. The funding formula may be updated as  
603 needed from time to time, and shall be available for use commencing with the fiscal year 2016  
604 annual budget.

605 SECTION 29. The president of the university of Massachusetts, in consultation with the  
606 chair of the board of trustees of the university and the chancellors of the campuses, shall develop  
607 a funding formula to determine the allocation of state appropriations received by the university in  
608 the annual state budget to the individual campuses that includes, but is not limited to,  
609 performance funding. Performance funding shall be based upon and allocated on factors relating  
610 to outcomes. The outcome afforded the most weight for performance funding shall be increasing  
611 the number of students who complete their degrees; provided that, additional points shall be  
612 given for graduating students who might have been considered at-risk of not completing their  
613 education, including students from lower income households, African-American students, Latino  
614 students, adult students, students with severe disabilities, and those who may have been less  
615 academically prepared upon entry. Additional performance outcomes may be included in the  
616 formula as deemed relevant to the mission of the university.

617 SECTION 30. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all tuition  
618 received by the board of trustees of the university of Massachusetts paid by students attending  
619 the University of Massachusetts at Worcester who reside in the state shall be retained by the  
620 board of trustees in a revolving trust fund and shall be expended as the administration of the  
621 University of Massachusetts at Worcester directs in accordance with regulations established by  
622 the board. Any balance in the trust fund at the close of the fiscal years shall be available for  
623 expenditures in subsequent fiscal years and shall not revert to the General Fund. For any  
624 employees of the University of Massachusetts at Worcester who are paid from tuition retained  
625 pursuant to this section, fringe benefits shall be funded as if those employees' salaries were  
626 supported by state appropriations. This section shall apply only to fringe benefits associated

627 with salaries paid from tuition retained by the board of trustees of the University of  
628 Massachusetts as a direct result of the implementation of this section.

629 SECTION 31. To provide for a program of capital improvements to public higher  
630 education institutions to provide support for these institutions in carrying out their educational  
631 missions and to enhance regional economic development through their educational initiatives,  
632 the sums set forth in this section, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified  
633 in this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public  
634 funds, which sums shall be in addition to any other amounts previously appropriated for these  
635 purposes.

636 EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

637 Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance

638 7066-XXXX For costs associated with planning and studies, dispositions, acquisition of  
639 land and buildings and interests therein by purchase or by eminent domain under chapter 79 of  
640 the General Laws and for the preparation of plans and specifications, repairs, construction,  
641 renovations, improvements, maintenance and repair, asset management and demolition at the  
642 state universities and community college campus facilities and grounds; provided, that all  
643 projects approved for design and construction by the division of capital asset management and  
644 maintenance for the state universities and community colleges shall be consistent in priority and  
645 need with capital master plans developed by the division of capital asset management and  
646 maintenance, in consultation with the presidents of the state universities and community colleges  
647 and approved by the board of higher education; and provided further, that all maintenance and

648 repair work funded by this item shall be included in the capital asset management information  
649 system administered by the division of capital asset management.....\$2,100,000,000

650           7100-XXXX For costs associated with planning and studies, dispositions, acquisition of  
651 land and buildings and interests therein by purchase or by eminent domain under chapter 79 of  
652 the General Laws and for the preparation of plans and specifications, repairs, construction,  
653 renovations, improvements, maintenance and repair, asset management and demolition at the  
654 university of Massachusetts campus facilities and grounds; provided, that all projects approved  
655 for design and construction by the division of capital asset management and maintenance for the  
656 university of Massachusetts shall be consistent in priority and need with capital master plans  
657 developed by the university of Massachusetts and approved by the board of trustees of the  
658 university of Massachusetts; and provided further, that all maintenance and repair work funded  
659 by this item shall be included in the capital asset management information system administered  
660 by the division of capital asset management .....\$2,100,000,000

661           SECTION 32. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 31, the state  
662 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an  
663 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,  
664 \$4,200,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their  
665 face, Public Higher Education Capital Expenditure Act of 2015, and shall be issued for a  
666 maximum term of years, not exceeding 30 years, as the governor may recommend to the general  
667 court under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. The bonds shall be  
668 payable not later than June 30, 2054. All interest and payments on account of principal on these  
669 obligations shall be payable from the General Fund. Bonds and interest on bonds issued under



670 this section shall, notwithstanding any other provision of this act, be general obligations of the  
671 commonwealth.

672 SECTION 33. The secretary of administration and finance shall submit a report on the  
673 progress and all expenditures related to any projects funded through the authorizations in Section  
674 31 of this act to the secretary of education, the board of higher education, the chairs of the senate  
675 and house committees on ways and means, the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on  
676 higher education, and the chairs of the committees on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State  
677 Assets. The report shall include, but not be limited to: the total amount appropriated for each  
678 project; the total estimated cost of each project; the amount expended for the planning and design  
679 of each project up to the time the report is filed; the amount expended on construction of each  
680 project up to the time the report is filed; the total amount currently expended on each project; the  
681 estimated lifetime maintenance schedule and cost of each project; the original estimated  
682 completion date of each project; and the current anticipated completion date of each project.  
683 The report shall be submitted on December 31 of each year for a period of 10 years from the  
684 effective date of this act.

685 SECTION 34. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the  
686 contrary, not later than the start of the fall semester of 2016 and for each semester thereafter, if a  
687 public institution of higher education determines, by use of multiple commonly accepted  
688 measures of skill level, that a student is likely to succeed in college level work with supplemental  
689 support, the public institution of higher education shall offer the student remedial support that is  
690 embedded with the corresponding entry level course in a college level program. The embedded  
691 support shall be offered during the same semester as and in conjunction with the entry level  
692 course for purposes of providing the student with supplemental support in the entry level course.

693 (b) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2016 and for each semester thereafter, if  
694 a public institution of higher education determines, by use of multiple commonly accepted  
695 measures of skill level, that a student is below the skill level required for success in college level  
696 work, the public institution of higher education shall offer the student the opportunity to  
697 participate in an intensive college readiness program before the start of the next semester. The  
698 student shall complete the intensive college readiness program prior to receiving embedded  
699 remedial support, as provided in subsection (a) of this section. The board of higher education, in  
700 consultation with the university of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community  
701 colleges, shall develop options for an intensive college readiness program.

702 (c) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2016 and for each semester thereafter,  
703 no public institution of higher education shall offer any remedial support, including remedial  
704 courses, that is not embedded with the corresponding entry level course, as required pursuant to  
705 subsection (a) of this section, or offered as part of an intensive college readiness program, except  
706 the institution may offer a student a maximum of one semester of remedial support that is not  
707 embedded, provided (1) the support is intended to advance the student toward earning a degree,  
708 and (2) the program of remedial support is approved by the board of higher education.

709 (d) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2017 and for each semester thereafter,  
710 board of higher education and the board of elementary and secondary education shall complete  
711 curricular alignment to enable the successful completion of the high school mathematics and  
712 language arts curricula, as described in Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for English  
713 Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics as adopted by the board of elementary and secondary  
714 education, to be the indicator of readiness for college level work. A public institution of higher  
715 education may use available evaluation instruments to assess adults, who are returning to or first

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

718 (e) Not later than the start of the school year commencing July 1, 2016, and for each  
719 school year thereafter, the board of higher education shall ensure that each public institution of  
720 higher education works with the department of elementary of secondary education and the local  
721 and regional school districts to (1) use available evaluation methods for early assessment of the  
722 potential for college readiness of each student enrolled in the eighth and tenth grades in a public  
723 school, and (2) share the results of the assessment with the student, the student's parents or legal  
724 guardian and the public school in which the student is enrolled.