

**SENATE . . . . . No. 834**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Jason M. Lewis*

*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 to increase access to higher education for disadvantaged students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Jason M. Lewis*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Fifth Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 834**

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By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 834) of Jason M. Lewis for legislation to increase access to higher education for disadvantaged students. Higher Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 845 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to increase access to higher education for disadvantaged students.

*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. (a) As of October 1, 2026, institutions of higher education in the  
2 Commonwealth shall not use standardized test scores for purposes of determining student  
3 admission to undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

4           (b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to examinations required for determining licensure,  
5 certification or any profession where an examination is required by a national accreditation  
6 organization.

7           SECTION 2. (a) The commissioner of the department of higher education shall convene a  
8 working group with representatives from both public and private institutions of higher education  
9 in the Commonwealth to develop, support and promote alternative methods for determining  
10 student admission to undergraduate and graduate degree programs that better promote equity and

11 opportunity for students from all backgrounds, especially students of color and those from other  
12 disadvantaged backgrounds.

13 (b) Annually, not later than December 31, the commissioner shall submit a report  
14 detailing their progress and indicating any barriers to the clerks of the house of representatives  
15 and the senate and the chairs of the joint committee on higher education.

16 SECTION 3. section 2 of this act is hereby amended by striking subsection (b)

17 SECTION 4. Section 3 of this act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.