

SENATE No. 837

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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 resolve:

Resolve to establish a special commission to evaluate the original infrastructure debt at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>

SENATE No. 837

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 837) of Patricia D. Jehlen and Elizabeth A. Malia for legislation to establish a special commission to evaluate the original infrastructure debt at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 749 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

Resolve to establish a special commission to evaluate the original infrastructure debt at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

1 **Resolved**, there shall be a special joint legislative commission to evaluate the original
2 infrastructure debt associated with all repair and maintenance and capital construction-
3 improvement projects completed at UMass Boston.

4 Data collected, studies, and reports prepared by or for UMass Boston, the University of
5 Massachusetts President’s Office, UMass Building Authority, UMass Board of Trustees, and
6 other related offices will be reviewed to assess the impact of the original infrastructure debt on
7 the day-to-day operations of the UMass Boston campus. Upon completion of its review and
8 evaluation, the commission will issue a report of its findings and recommendations, including
9 but not limited to amounts of the debt that should either be reimbursed, paid off, and/or assumed
10 by the Commonwealth instead of UMass Boston per a recommended schedule.

11 The commission shall consist of: 1 person to be appointed by the senate president who
12 shall serve as co-chair; 1 person to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives
13 who shall serve as co-chair; the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance and
14 Treasurer, UMass President's Office or a designee; the Chair of the Committee on
15 Administration and Finance, UMass Board of Trustees or a designee; the Vice Chancellor for
16 Administration and Finance, UMass Boston or a designee; the President of UMass Boston
17 Student Government or a designee; and 7 persons to be appointed by the governor, 2 of whom
18 shall be independent and qualified third party specialists-consultants in debt financing and debt
19 management for public higher educational institutions, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
20 UMass Boston Board of Visitors, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the UMass Boston
21 Alumni Association, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the UMass Boston Faculty Senate, 1
22 of whom shall be a representative of the UMass Labor Employee Union, and 1 of whom shall be
23 a representative of the UMass Building Authority.

24 Meetings of the commission shall be subject to all applicable provisions of MGL,
25 Chapter 30A. The commission will meet on a regular basis and will file a report of its findings
26 and recommendations with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the chairs of the
27 senate and house committees on ways and means, and the governor by December 31, 2021.