

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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*House of Representatives,*

*The committee on Bills in the Third Reading, to whom was referred the*

Engrossed Bill establishing a higher education affordability task force (see House, No. 4018) being section 18 contained in the bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2022 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions and certain activities of the commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund and serial bond requirements and for certain permanent improvements (see House, No. 4002), which was returned by His Excellency the Governor pursuant to Article LVI with recommendation of amendment specified by him, (see Attachment R of House, No. 4019)

***Reports recommending that the amendment recommended by His Excellency, the Governor, be considered in the following form:***

By striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

“SECTION 1. The board of higher education shall convene a task force to evaluate the financing of public higher education in the commonwealth. The evaluation may include: (i) current and projected trends in student enrollment and demographics; (ii) the financial health and sustainability of higher education institutions in light of demographic changes and competitive pressures; (iii) current cost drivers in higher education and the distinctions between community colleges, four-year undergraduate institutions, and research universities, and between rural and urban campuses; (iv) the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the stability of higher education institutions; (v) approaches to higher education finance and financial aid in other states and their impact on access, completion, and equity; (vi) the extent to which the cost of college is reducing attendance and completion, and increasing the level of

student debt; (vii) the potential impact of performance incentives and enrollment-based funding formulas on fiscal stability, workforce alignment, affordability, and student outcomes.

The task force shall consist of the commissioner of the department or his designee, members of the board, representatives from Massachusetts public colleges, 1 or more students currently enrolled in a public college, and outside experts. The task force shall present its findings and recommendations to the board of higher education, and the board shall file a report of its evaluation to the joint committee on higher education and the house and senate committees on ways and means by June 30, 2022.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect as of July 1, 2021.”.

*And that when so amended the same will be correctly drawn.*

.....,  
*For the Committee.*