HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3186 FILED ON: 1/18/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1075

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jerald A. Parisella

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to students serving in the military.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Jerald A. Parisella	*6th Essex*
Marc T. Lombardo	*22nd Middlesex*
Jason M. Lewis	*31st Middlesex*
James R. Miceli	*19th Middlesex*
Cory Atkins	*14th Middlesex*
Gailanne M. Cariddi	*1st Berkshire*
Thomas P. Conroy	*13th Middlesex*
Lori A. Ehrlich	*8th Essex*
Ryan C. Fattman	*18th Worcester*
Kimberly N. Ferguson	*1st Worcester*
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*
Colleen M. Garry	*36th Middlesex*
Susan Williams Gifford	*2nd Plymouth*
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
Paul R. Heroux	*2nd Bristol*
Louis L. Kafka	*8th Norfolk*
Mary S. Keefe	*15th Worcester*
John D. Keenan	*7th Essex*

Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Kevin J. Kuros	*8th Worcester*
Keiko M. Orrall	*12th Bristol*
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*
Paul A. Schmid, III	*8th Bristol*
Theodore C. Speliotis	*13th Essex*
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*
Martin J. Walsh	*13th Suffolk*
James J. Dwyer	*30th Middlesex*
Stephen L. DiNatale	*3rd Worcester*
Angelo M. Scaccia	*14th Suffolk*
Richard T. Moore	*Worcester and Norfolk*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 1075

By Mr. Parisella of Beverly, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1075) of Jerald A. Parisella and others relative to financial penalties of active duty military personnel withdrawing from postsecondary courses . Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to students serving in the military.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 15E, the following chapter:-

CHAPTER 15F

STUDENT VETERANS

Section 1. As used in this chapter, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:--

"Active duty", full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. sections 1209 and 1211.

Section 2. This chapter shall apply to all postsecondary institutions in the commonwealth including (i) the system of public institutions of higher education, as defined in section 5 of chapter 15A; (ii) private occupation schools, as defined in section 263 of chapter 112; and (iii) private colleges, universities or other institutions of higher learning.

Section 3. No student at a postsecondary institution shall incur academic or financial penalties by virtue of performing military service on behalf of the United States. A student who enrolls in but is unable to complete an academic course because he or she is called to, or enlists in, active duty shall be permitted the option of completing the course at a later date without penalty or withdrawing from the course with a full refund of fees and tuition paid If the academic course is no longer available upon the student's return from active duty, the student shall be permitted the option of completing a replacement course for equivalent credit without penalty or withdrawing from the original course with a full refund of fees and tuition paid. If the

22 student chooses to withdraw from the course, the student's record shall reflect that the
23 withdrawal is due to active military service.

24 Section 4. (a) There shall be a commission on student veterans which shall consist of 7
25 persons as follows: 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the department of higher education,
26 or a designee; 1 of whom shall be the director of the division of professional licensure, or a
27 designee who shall be from the office of private occupational school education; 2 persons
28 appointed by the secretary of veterans' services; 1 person appointed by the speaker of the house
29 of representatives; 1 person appointed by the president of the senate; and 1 person appointed by
30 the governor. Members of the commission shall be citizens of the commonwealth who have
31 demonstrated a commitment to student veterans.

32 (b) Members shall serve terms of 2 years. Vacancies in the membership of the
33 commission shall be filled by the original appointing authority for the balance of the unexpired
34 term.

35 (c) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but
36 shall be reimbursed for any usual and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their
37 duties.

38 (d) The commission shall be a resource to the commonwealth on issues affecting student
39 veterans. In furtherance of that responsibility, the commission shall establish regulations
40 regarding students who are called to, or enlist in, active duty. Such regulations shall be
41 promulgated within one year after passage of this act.