

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

**AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL REWARDS GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST
LOW INCOME WORKERS.**

*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. To provide for certain unanticipated obligations of the commonwealth, to
2 provide for an alteration of purpose for current appropriations, and to meet certain requirements
3 of law, the sum set forth in this section is hereby appropriated from the General Fund unless
4 specifically designated otherwise in this section, for the several purposes and subject to the
5 conditions specified in this section, and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public
6 funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. This sum shall be in addition to any amounts
7 previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of this item.

8 XXXX – XXXX For the Education Rewards Grant Program Fund established by
9 section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws
10\$1,500,000

11 SECTION 2. Section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
12 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the penultimate sentence, in lines 23-25, and
13 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The amount of the award shall be applied
14 towards student financial need in excess of the financial need met by other federal, state or
15 private grants without regard to the amount that may be available through loans.

16 SECTION 3. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a portion of
17 the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the
18 General Laws, as determined by the department of workforce development and the board of
19 higher education, shall be used for a “Supports for Success” pilot program to assist grant
20 recipients complete their degree or certificate programs; provided, that supports provided
21 through said pilot may include, but need not be limited to, intensive advising and counseling,
22 college and career success courses, work study jobs in the students’ field of study, learning

23 communities, curricula redesign to support blended or accelerated remediation, mentoring or
24 tutoring, and child care and transportation assistance.

25 (b) On or before December 1 of each year, the department of workforce development
26 and the board of higher education shall submit to the chairs of house and senate committees on
27 ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on higher education a report on use in the
28 prior fiscal year of the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section 2SSS of
29 chapter 29 of the General Laws; provided, that such report shall include, but need not be limited
30 to, the number of grants awarded, the amount of each grant, the level of educational attainment
31 of grant recipients before the grant was awarded, degrees and certificates awarded to recipients,
32 recipient demographic information, recipient retention rates while receiving the grant, and
33 analysis of the strengths and areas of needed improvement in the Educational Rewards Grant
34 Program and the “Supports for Success” pilot program and recommendations for such
35 improvements.