

HOUSE No. 3985

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 27, 2013.

The committee on Higher Education to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 575) of Gale D. Candaras, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Michael R. Knapik, James T. Welch and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to program approval at a private, nonprofit college or university and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1076) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others for legislation to authorize certain private, nonprofit colleges or universities to offer or institute additional programs or degrees, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 3985) ought to pass.

For the committee,

TOM SANNICANDRO.

HOUSE No. 3985

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act relative to program approval.

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. Section 30A of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

3 Notwithstanding the provisions or any general or special law to the contrary, a private,
4 nonprofit college or university may offer or institute an additional program or degree if the
5 college or university (1) has maintained a physical presence in the Commonwealth for the
6 immediately preceding 20 years and has been operated continuously by the same governing
7 corporate entity during the same immediately preceding 20-year period and (2) is accredited and
8 has continued in accreditation by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE)
9 within the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) for the immediately
10 preceding 20 years. If the college or university is placed on probation or has its accreditation
11 terminated by NEASC, such college or university shall notify the board of higher education in
12 writing no later than thirty (30) days after being formally informed of its probation or loss of
13 accreditation by NEASC. If a college or university has its accreditation placed on probation or
14 terminated by NEASC the college or university shall be subject to the board of higher education
15 program approval process until it had been removed from probation or regained accreditation by
16 NEASC, and shall remain subject to such board of higher education program approval until it has
17 continued in accreditation for a period of not less than 6 years. If a college or university subject
18 to this section intends to offer or institute an additional degree or program which constitutes a
19 “substantive change”, as defined and determined by NEASC, then the college or university shall
20 provide the board of higher education with copies of any reports or other documents filed with
21 NEASC as part of NEASC’s substantive change review process and shall inform the board of
22 higher education when the substantive change is approved. Any such college or university that
23 does not satisfy all of the provisions of this paragraph shall comply with the procedures and
24 criteria established by the board of higher education for academic program approval.

25 SECTION 2. The above section shall only apply to private, nonprofit colleges and
26 universities that are subject to the board of higher education program approval process as of the
27 effective date of this act.