

HOUSE No. 1168

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act to establish a higher education assistance pilot program..

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
2 Massachusetts board of higher education, in this act referred to as the board, shall establish a 2
3 year pilot program to promote student retention and employment partnerships between graduates
4 of colleges and universities in the state and the state’s business community. The board shall
5 establish rules and regulations governing the implementation and administration of the pilot
6 program, including, but not limited to, income eligibility requirements for participating students.
7 The pilot program shall consist of not more than 5 public and private colleges and universities in
8 the state selected by the board of higher education, and not more than 5 business entities in the
9 state selected by the board of higher education in consultation with the secretary of housing and
10 economic development. Business entities may consist of, but need not be limited to, employers
11 from the financial services, life sciences, high technology, and health care industries. Not more
12 than 150 students may participate in the pilot program. Students eligible to participate in the
13 program shall be in good academic standing at one of the colleges or universities selected to

14 participate in the program and have obtained more than fifty percent of the credits needed to
15 graduate.

16 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary,
17 business entities selected to participate in the pilot program shall supplement a percentage of a
18 participating student's tuition and fees and, in providing this assistance, shall receive a 20% state
19 income tax credit on the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees paid by the participating business entity.
20 In exchange for receiving tuition and fee assistance from a participating business entity,
21 graduating students shall agree to work in the state for the business entity for an agreed upon
22 length of time, which shall not exceed 24 months. In the event a participating student is unable
23 to perform work for the business entity upon graduation, the student shall refund all or a portion
24 of the financial assistance provided by the business entity, unless the student's failure to perform
25 is based upon a condition or conditions set forth by the board, including, but not limited to, the
26 inability of the business entity to provide the agreed upon employment. If upon a participating
27 student's graduation, the business entity is not able to provide the agreed upon employment for
28 the student, the business entity shall reimburse the state for the amount of the tax credit the
29 business entity received for the student.

30 (c) Two years after the commencement of the pilot program, the board shall file a
31 report with the House and Senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committees on
32 higher education, revenue, and labor and workforce development detailing the results of the pilot
33 program and any recommendations as to whether the program should be continued or expanded.