

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4843**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Ten**  
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An Act Creating A Special Commission On College Scholarships..

*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. There shall be a special commission to incentivize the Commonwealth’s  
2 college scholarship system. The commission shall consist of: the Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives, or his designee; the President of the Senate, or her designee; the Minority  
4 Leader of the House of Representatives, or his designee; the Minority Leader of the Senate, or  
5 his designee; the Chairpersons of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, or their designee;  
6 and 8 persons appointed by the Governor, 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of Education, or his  
7 designee, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the University of Massachusetts, 1 of whom  
8 shall be a representative from the State College System, 1 of whom shall be a representative  
9 State Community College, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Massachusetts Bankers  
10 Association, and 1 of whom shall be a representative from Families United in Educational  
11 Leadership.

12           SECTION 2. The special commission shall make an investigation and study of the  
13 scholarship programs that provide financial assistance to Massachusetts students enrolled in or  
14 pursuing a program of higher education at any approved public or independent college,

15 university, school of nursing, or any other approved institution furnishing a program of higher  
16 education, and shall focus on students with little or no family history of college attendance. Said  
17 study shall examine methods that have been used in the Commonwealth and other states to better  
18 prepare these students for college. The study shall include but not be limited to: the examination  
19 of voluntary college savings programs focused on the needs of said families; the possible use of  
20 federally matched independent development accounts; the impact of committing scholarship  
21 funds to students prior to the twelfth grade; and the need for a pilot program for ninth thru  
22 twelfth grade students in up to 5 public school districts, to encourage family engagement and  
23 student academic achievement through the use of scholarships in conjunction with family  
24 savings for college; potential additional funding sources for a college savings matching program  
25 with priority placed on financial matches that have no additional cost to the Commonwealth.

26 SECTION 3. The commission shall hold at least 3 public meetings and file a report of the  
27 results of its study including any legislative or regulatory recommendations with the clerks of the  
28 Senate and House of Representatives who shall forward the same to the Joint Committee on  
29 Higher Education and the Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means not later than  
30 December 31, 2010.