

HOUSE No. 4940

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Ten

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 There shall be a special commission to investigate and study the need to incentivize the
2 commonwealth’s college scholarship system. The commission shall consist of: the speaker of the
3 house of representatives, or a designee; the president of the senate, or a designee; the minority
4 leader of the house of representative, or a designee; the minority leader of the senate, or a
5 designee; the house chair of the joint committee on higher education, or a designee; the senate
6 chair of the joint committee on higher education, or a designee; the secretary of education, or a
7 designee; the commissioner of higher education, or a designee; the executive director of the
8 Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority, or a designee; and 6 persons appointed by the
9 governor 1 of whom shall be a representative from the University of Massachusetts, 1 of whom
10 shall be a representative from the state colleges, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the
11 community colleges, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Association of Independent
12 Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the
13 Massachusetts Bankers Association, and 1 of whom shall be a representative from Families
14 United in Educational Leadership.

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

29 The commission shall file a report with its findings and recommendations with the
30 clerks of the senate and house of representatives, who shall forward the same to the joint
31 committee on higher education and the senate and house committees on ways and means, not
32 later than December 31, 2010.