

SENATE No. 597

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act to promote higher education among employees of human services provider organizations.

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. Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following new section:--

3 Section 19F. The board of higher education, in exercising its powers under section four
4 of chapter fifteen A, shall by no later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this
5 act establish a program of tuition remission pursuant to which persons employed by providers of
6 social services programs that hold contracts with the commonwealth, and spouses of those
7 persons, are provided tuition remission benefits for courses or programs taken at any public
8 community college or state college or the University of Massachusetts. Tuition remission
9 benefits provided to such persons and their spouses shall be on parity, as nearly as possible, with
10 tuition remission benefits provided to employees of the commonwealth and their spouses. For
11 purposes of this act the term "social services programs" shall have the meaning specified in
12 section two hundred seventy-four of chapter one hundred ten of the acts of nineteen hundred and
13 ninety-three as amended. In developing such programs of tuition remission benefits, the board of

14 higher education and the administrator of the current tuition remission program operated by the
15 Massachusetts Council of Human Services Providers, Inc. shall consult with the secretaries of
16 health and human services and elder affairs.