HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 122 FILED ON: 1/9/2015

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3153

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Harold P. Naughton, Jr.***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to a volunteer veteran corps mentoring program.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|---|---|
| *Harold P. Naughton, Jr.* | *12th Worcester* |
| *RoseLee Vincent* | *16th Suffolk* |

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 122 FILED ON: 1/9/2015

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3153

By Mr. Naughton of Clinton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3153) of Harold P. Naughton, Jr., and RoseLee Vincent for legislation to establish a veteran mentoring pilot program at certain higher educational institutions to assist veterans in adjusting to civilian life. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *3199* OF 2013-2014.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court**
**(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to a volunteer veteran corps mentoring program.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. The President of University of Massachusetts System (UMASS) including the Chancellors of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, and the Presidents of Bridgewater State (BSC) and Salem State (SSC) Colleges may establish a veteran mentoring pilot program at their respective institutions to assist veterans who are attending the University in adjusting to civilian life in all facets including educational, financial and emotional. The pilot program should also give non-veteran students the opportunity to learn the value of service from veteran students and volunteer veteran mentors.

9 SECTION 2. The primary purpose of the program is to provide veteran students with
10 much needed independent support, advice and guidance by a mentor in order to help their
11 academic goals; improve their interpersonal relationships on campus; increase their retention;
12 and provide access to student-service support. The secondary purpose would be to promote a
13 positive image of veterans through seminars with non-veteran students to discuss the veterans'
14 experiences in the military. These universities and colleges were selected for the pilot program
15 because of involvement in the Veteran's Affairs Yellow Ribbon Program which would likely
16 bring a higher number of veterans to their respective campuses.

17 SECTION 3. The President of UMASS or BSC and SSC may approve the establishment
18 of a 2 part veteran mentoring pilot program, the first part of which shall recruit volunteers who
19 are faculty, ROTC (where applicable), employees, alumni or friends of the University who are
20 veterans of the Armed Forces to mentor student veterans with the challenges the student veterans
21 may face in adapting to civilian life and their educational program, and the second of which shall
22 provide the opportunity for any non-veteran student to learn from the experiences of student and
23 faculty veterans and to learn more about the value of military service. Students enrolled in the
24 pilot program shall be considered to be enrolled in the veteran mentor program as mentees. The
25 qualifications of the mentors shall be subject to approval by the respective Presidents. UMASS,
26 BSC and SSC shall report feedback and recommendations for improvement regarding the
27 implementation of the veteran mentoring pilot program to the general court by June 30, 2012.

28 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.