

HOUSE No. 4060

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 10, 2016.

The committee on the Higher Education to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1076) of Walter F. Timilty, Michael O. Moore and Sean Garballey for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to high cost of college, reports recommending that the accompanying resolve (House, No. 4060) ought to pass.

For the committee,

TOM SANNICANDRO.

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

Resolve establishing a special commission relative to reducing the costs associated with the purchase of college textbooks.

1 **Resolved**, That a special commission is hereby established to investigate and study the
2 college textbook industry. The investigation and study shall include, but not be limited to,
3 examining the costs of purchasing textbooks and study materials, reviewing information
4 concerning offering a choice of lower cost texts, such as soft cover, one color and digital texts,
5 exploring the effective use of E-textbooks and open source material, reviewing changes in
6 editions and the cost savings related to maintaining a current edition over purchasing the most
7 recent edition, encouraging colleges to implement comprehensive and controlled buy-back and
8 book swap programs to reduce costs for students, providing incentives to those schools that offer
9 such programs and expanding the information available to purchasers of textbooks so that faculty
10 and students alike are provided with a complete view of all available textbooks for comparison
11 purposes. The commission shall consist of 19 members as follows: the house chair of the joint
12 committee on higher education, the senate chair of the joint committee on higher education, the
13 speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the minority leader of the house,
14 the minority leader of the senate, the commissioner of higher education, or their designees, and
15 12 members to be appointed by the governor 1 of whom shall be from the University of

16 Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be from the Council of Presidents of the Massachusetts State
17 Universities, 1 of whom shall be from the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office,
18 1 of whom shall be from the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in
19 Massachusetts, 2 of whom shall be representatives of the college textbook publishing industry
20 with offices in the commonwealth, 1 of whom shall be a representative of higher education book
21 stores in the commonwealth, 1 of whom shall be a faculty member of a public higher education
22 institution in the commonwealth, 1 of whom shall be a faculty member of a private higher
23 education in the commonwealth, 2 of whom shall be college librarians, and 1 of whom shall be a
24 student trustee of a public higher education institution in the commonwealth. The commission
25 shall report to the general court the results of its study, together with drafts of legislation
26 necessary to carry such recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the
27 house of representatives on or before December 31, 2017.