

HOUSE No. 4561

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, July 30, 2016.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Bill creating higher education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, and other developmental disabilities (House, No. 4040), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4561).

For the committee,

BRIAN S. DEMPSEY.

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

An Act relative to the inclusive concurrent enrollment grant program.

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 71B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 Section 16 the following section: -

3 Section 17: (a) Subject to appropriation, the executive office of education shall develop
4 and administer a discretionary grant program to provide monies to school committees and public
5 institutions of higher education partnering to offer inclusive concurrent enrollment program
6 options for school-aged children, ages 18 to 21, inclusive. The program shall be limited to
7 students who are considered to have severe intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, or
8 other developmental disabilities, and have been unable to achieve the competency determination
9 necessary to pass the statewide assessment test pursuant to section 1D of chapter 69 of the
10 general laws.

11 (b) The grant program shall enable school committees to partner with public institutions
12 of higher education in order to assist in the transitional needs of eligible students pursuant to
13 subsection (a), which shall include facilitating movement from school to post-school activities
14 and competitive employment. Said grant program shall be based on a results oriented process

focused on improving academic and functional achievement in accordance with the provisions of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

SECTION 2. The executive office of education, in consultation with the state university council of presidents or designee, the university of Massachusetts office of the president or designee and executive director of Massachusetts community colleges or designee shall promulgate guidelines pursuant to section 17 of chapter 71B of the General Laws on or before March 15, 2017.

SECTION 3. The executive office of education shall file a report with the joint committee on education, the joint committee on higher education and the house and senate committees on ways and means on the status of the inclusive concurrent enrollment grant program established in section 17 of chapter 71B of the General Laws not later than December 15, 2017. The report shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(1) enrollment data detailing the number of students enrolled in inclusive concurrent enrollment each semester and the unduplicated count of total students served at each institution;

(2) a list of all full-time and part-time employment positions supported by the grant program that are dedicated to supporting students participating in the inclusive concurrent enrollment program and the average salary for those positions including but not limited to: (i) educational coaches; (ii) educational specialists; (iii) job coaches and vocational specialists; (iv) program specialists; (v) program directors; (vi) peer mentors, note-takers, and tutors; (vii) contracted employees and; (viii) parent and school committee liaisons;

(3) a list of all courses taken by students participating in the inclusive concurrent enrollment program during the academic year with indication as to whether the student attempted the course for credit or for audit and whether the student passed or completed the course;

(4) a summary of innovative strategies and practices implemented at each institution of higher education that helped foster relationships with school committees;

(5) employment data for students participating in the inclusive concurrent enrollment program, obtained to the best of the ability of participating school committees and institutions of higher education;

(6) the total funding received for the program including amounts allocated to each grantee and any executive agency or participating state board, department or institute of higher education and;

(7) a cost analysis and recommendations on implementing a statewide inclusive concurrent enrollment grant program that would include all school districts and public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth.

SECTION 4. (a) The executive office of health and human services, in collaboration with the executive office of education, and in consultation with any relevant state agencies serving students with severe intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, and other developmental disabilities, including but not limited to vocational rehabilitation agencies, shall file a report on existing eligibility requirements for department of developmental services and Massachusetts rehabilitation commission services that could be used to support inclusive opportunities in higher education beyond the age of 21 years, pursuant to section 17 of chapter 71B of the General Laws, including, but not limited to: (i) the use of ABLE accounts to support access to higher

57 education; (ii) eligibility of students to receive financial assistance from scholarship programs
58 included in section 16 of chapter 15A of the General Laws; (iii) the use of interagency
59 agreements or policies to support effective collaboration between public institutions of higher
60 education, school committees, and executive agencies, including but not limited to maximizing
61 federal financial participation through Medicaid and; (iv) whether federal financial aid exists for
62 students beyond the age of 21 that may wish to participate in the inclusive concurrent enrollment
63 program.

64 (b) The report, including any recommendations, shall be filed with the clerks of the house
65 and senate, the chairs of the house and senate committee on ways and means and the chairs of
66 the joint committee on education and the joint committee of higher education not later than
67 September 1, 2017.