

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marcos A. Devers

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 students serving in the military.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>1/22/2015</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>1/29/2015</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>8/2/2019</i>
<i>Donald H. Wong</i>	<i>9th Essex</i>	<i>8/2/2019</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>8/2/2019</i>

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Devers of Lawrence, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Marcos A. Devers and others relative to the acceptance of credits from veterans for the purpose of completing a four-year degree. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to students serving in the military.

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

1 The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 15E, the following
2 chapter:-

3 CHAPTER 15F

4 STUDENT VETERANS

5 Section 1. As used in this chapter, the following words shall, unless the context clearly
6 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:--

7 “Veteran”, shall mean (1) any person, (a) whose last discharge or release from his
8 wartime service as defined herein, was under honorable conditions and who (b) served in the
9 army, navy, marine corps, coast guard, or air force of the United States, or on full time national
10 guard duty under Titles 10 or 32 of the United States Code or under sections 38, 40 and 41 of
11 chapter 33 for not less than 90 days active service, at least 1 day of which was for wartime

12 service; provided, however, than any person who so served in wartime and was awarded a
13 service-connected disability or a Purple Heart, or who died in such service under conditions
14 other than dishonorable, shall be deemed to be a veteran notwithstanding his failure to complete
15 90 days of active service; (2) a member of the American Merchant Marine who served in armed
16 conflict between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946, and who has received honorable
17 discharges from the United States Coast Guard, Army, or Navy; (3) any person (a) whose last
18 discharge from active service was under honorable conditions, and who (b) served in the army,
19 navy, marine corps, coast guard, or air force of the United States for not less than 180 days active
20 service; provided, however, that any person who so served and was awarded a service-connected
21 disability or who died in such service under conditions other than dishonorable, shall be deemed
22 to be a veteran notwithstanding his failure to complete 180 days of active service.

23 Section 2. This chapter shall apply to all postsecondary institutions in the commonwealth
24 including (i) the system of public institutions of higher education, as defined in section 5 of
25 chapter 15A; (ii) private occupation schools, as defined in section 263 of chapter 112; and (iii)
26 private colleges, universities or other institutions of higher learning.

27 Section 3. Postsecondary institutions shall be required to accept all transferred credits
28 from veterans for the purpose of completing a four-year degree including college level
29 examination program (CLEP) credits and American Council for Education (ACE) credits. There
30 shall be no limit to the number of credits a veteran may transfer toward the completion of a four-
31 year degree. Such credits may come from any accredited postsecondary institution in the world.
32 If the accepting postsecondary institution has no equivalent disciplinary area to which the credits
33 may be applied, the institution shall establish a formal process to transfer such credits to another
34 disciplinary area.

35 Section 4. The department of higher education shall promulgate regulations consistent
36 with this chapter.