

SENATE No. 2097

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, Tuesday, January 19, 2016

The committee on Higher Education to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 651) of Harriette L. Chandler, James J. O'Day and Daniel M. Donahue for legislation for reimbursement for costs of the 'Learning Contract'; and (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1057) of James J. O'Day and others that the University of Massachusetts and the University of Massachusetts Medical School be directed to develop and implement provisions for payback in learning contracts for legislation for reimbursement for costs of the 'Learning Contract',- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2097).

For the committee,
Michael O. Moore

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An Act for reimbursement for costs of the ‘Learning Contract’.

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

1 Chapter 75 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 36D, as
2 appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following:-

3 Section 36D. The board of trustees of the University of Massachusetts, in conjunction
4 with the University of Massachusetts Medical School, shall develop and implement provisions
5 for payback in learning contracts entered into by students admitted for the academic year
6 commencing in two thousand and fifteen and for every year thereafter, which shall require
7 payback service, so-called, of at least four years within the commonwealth in areas of primary
8 care, public or community service, or underserved areas, as determined by the commissioner of
9 the department of public health and the learning contract committee, in coordination with the
10 area health education center and state and regional health planning agencies. The
11 commonwealth, not the medical school, shall bear the cost of these learning contracts. In the case
12 of any student who has entered into a learning contract and who does not perform payback
13 service, the difference between the tuition actually paid and the amount of the tuition which
14 would have been otherwise charged shall be required to be repaid to the medical school together

15 with eight percent interest per annum and the medical school shall remit the repayment proceeds
16 to the commonwealth; provided, that the commonwealth has in fact borne the cost of the
17 student's learning contract pursuant to this section. No payback service or tuition loan
18 repayment shall be required prior to the termination of any internship and residency
19 requirements, and interest shall begin to accrue upon completion of any internship requirements.
20 The chancellor shall provide, on an annual basis, a report outlining the number of students
21 participating in said learning contracts, the area of medicine within which payback shall be
22 performed, the effects of payback in the underserved areas of the commonwealth, the number of
23 students utilizing the repayment option, and the aggregate tuition which would have been
24 received by the medical school had students not participated in said learning contracts. Said
25 report shall be submitted annually to the house and senate committees on ways and means by
26 September first.