

SENATE No. 2184

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)
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SENATE, Thursday, March 17, 2016

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill relative to uniform financial aid information (Senate, No. 661),-- reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2184).

For the committee,
Karen E. Spilka

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

An Act relative to uniform financial aid information.

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 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding following
2 section:-

3 Section 45. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
4 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5 “Accepted applicant”, an individual who has been accepted to a full-time undergraduate
6 program at an institution of higher education and applied for financial aid; provided further, that
7 the term “accepted applicant” shall include a transfer student accepted into a full-time
8 undergraduate program.

9 “Institution of higher education”, any public or private college, university, community
10 college, junior college or other institution of higher education chartered, located, offering courses
11 or otherwise doing business within the commonwealth and authorized by the commonwealth to
12 grant degrees.

13 “Uniform financial aid information shopping sheet”, the financial aid shopping sheet
14 developed by the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the United States
15 Department of Education under 20 USC 1001 et. seq.

16 (b) An institution of higher education shall provide each accepted applicant with a
17 uniform financial aid information shopping sheet to assist the accepted applicant with the
18 decision to enroll in the institution of higher education. The uniform financial aid information
19 shopping sheet shall be provided to an accepted applicant a reasonable time prior to the
20 institution’s enrollment deadline. An institution of higher education may provide an electronic
21 version of the uniform financial aid information shopping sheet in a printable format.

22 (c) An institution of higher education may provide additional financial aid information on
23 the uniform financial aid information shopping sheet beyond the required information; provided,
24 however, that additional financial aid information uses terms as defined in the uniform financial
25 aid information shopping sheet.

26 (d) The department of higher education may promulgate regulations to carry out the
27 purposes of this section.

28 SECTION 2. The uniform financial aid information shopping sheet shall be provided to
29 all accepted applicants, as required by section 45 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, beginning
30 in the 2017-2018 academic year and each academic year thereafter.