

SENATE No. 678

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

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 strengthening and expanding affordable, quality higher education opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>

SENATE No. 678

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 678) of Michael O. Moore, Jason M. Lewis and Carmine L. Gentile for legislation relative to strengthening and expanding affordable, quality higher education opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to strengthening and expanding affordable, quality higher education opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to assist in providing forthwith affordable postsecondary educational opportunities for residents of the commonwealth, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. Section 1 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the 3rd paragraph, the following
3 paragraph:- It is hereby further declared to be the policy of the commonwealth to ensure that the
4 university of Massachusetts, each state university, and each community college has at its
5 disposal adequate funds to provide, foster and support high quality institutions of public higher
6 education that serve the interests of the commonwealth and its citizens in the manner described
7 in this section. For that purpose, it is hereby further declared to be the policy of the
8 commonwealth to make annually to the university of Massachusetts, each state university, and
9 each community college appropriations which, with all other unrestricted funds that are

10 available, in the case of each, for expenditure in the conduct of its affairs and the support of its
11 mission, are sufficient to fully fund its operating requirements. It is hereby further declared to be
12 the policy of the commonwealth to provide adequate funds to the university of Massachusetts,
13 each state university, and each community college for capital needs including the repair,
14 renovation, construction, reconstruction, improvement, demolition, expansion, acquisition,
15 furnishing, or equipping of buildings, structures, facilities and other infrastructure, including, but
16 not limited to technology infrastructure, necessary to maintain high quality institutions of higher
17 education.

18 SECTION 2. Section 9 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
19 inserting after the word “education”, in line 229, the following:- ; and (hh) to build and
20 maintain, in conjunction with the university of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the
21 community colleges, a transfer system providing individual students with clear and consistent
22 information on the student’s progress toward fulfilling degree requirements in any undergraduate
23 program at any public institution of higher education in the state; provided, that the system shall
24 include a standard core of course offering and numbering that are honored for common credit
25 toward degrees and certificates across the commonwealth’s public institutions of higher
26 education, and course-to-course equivalencies across these institutions that will enable students
27 to transfer from one public institution of higher education to another without loss of credit;
28 provided further, that the board shall coordinate the implementation of the system and all public
29 institutions of higher education institutions in the state shall utilize the system for all
30 undergraduate programs and course offerings; provided further, that the board, in consultation
31 with the University of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community colleges, shall

32 determine the form in which all data and course equivalencies shall be submitted by these
33 institutions.

34 SECTION 3. Section 9 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby by further
35 amended by adding the following paragraph:- All postsecondary educational institutions
36 offering courses and programs leading to degrees or certificates to residents of the
37 commonwealth shall provide uniform student financial aid information to every prospective
38 student who has been accepted for admission to the institution. Each institution shall provide
39 this information prior to the institution's enrollment deadline for purposes of providing each
40 student with time to make an informed decision about enrollment. Each institution shall use the
41 financial aid shopping sheet or such other standardized document developed by the U.S.
42 Department of Education to provide this information. Each institution annually shall post on its
43 website a list and description of all scholarships, grants, or other funds that do not have to be
44 paid back that are available at the institution to assist students in paying for their education.
45 Each institution shall inform students about any income based loan repayment programs and
46 public interest or other loan forgiveness programs available for borrowers of student loans. In
47 addition, all public institutions of higher education in the state shall work with American Student
48 Assistance through its SALT or other programs and the Massachusetts Educational Financing
49 Authority to provide financial literacy for students attending these institutions.

50 The board of higher education shall develop a clear and consistent definition of what
51 constitutes student financial aid which shall be used by all postsecondary educational institutions
52 offering courses and programs leading to degrees or certificates to residents of the
53 commonwealth.

54 SECTION 4. Section 15F of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
55 inserting in lines 11, 20, 21 23, 27, 30, and 33, after the word “credit”, the words:-and for-credit.

56 SECTION 5. Section 16 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
57 adding the following paragraph:- No state scholarship funds under this section, any other section
58 of this chapter, or other state student financial aid however provided, shall be made available to,
59 or on behalf, of any student enrolled in any postsecondary educational institution which the
60 board of higher education determines does not meet the requirements of this paragraph. To
61 meet the requirements of this paragraph, a postsecondary educational institution shall
62 demonstrate to the board that it has: (a) not more than 40% of its undergraduate students
63 borrowing student loans; (b) graduation rates of not less than 30% for undergraduate students
64 taking 150% or less of the expected time to complete degree requirements, as most recently
65 reported by the U.S. Department of Higher Education, provided, that graduation rates shall
66 include students who transfer; or (c) an average 3 year cohort default rate that is not more than
67 20%, as most recently reported by the U.S. Department of Education. The board of higher
68 education shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this paragraph including, but not
69 limited to, procedures and processes for annually determining which postsecondary educational
70 institutions meet the requirements of this paragraph, and a process for an institution to appeal a
71 determination that they do not meet the necessary requirements. The board of higher education
72 shall annually post a list of institutions that meet the requirements of this paragraph on the
73 department of higher education’s website. No state scholarship funds under this section, any
74 other section of this chapter, or other state student financial aid however provided, that is made
75 available to, or on behalf, of any student enrolled in any for-profit postsecondary educational
76 institution shall be used for purposes of marketing or advertising.

77 SECTION 6. Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
78 section 42, the following section:-

79 Section 43. There shall be a Partnership to Advance Collaboration and Efficiency, herein
80 referred to as PACE. The purposes of PACE shall be to foster collaborations that promote
81 operational efficiencies, cost savings, increased productivity, and increase and enhance high
82 quality higher education opportunities for residents of the commonwealth at the public
83 institutions of higher education set forth in section 5. Initiatives undertaken by PACE shall
84 include, but not be limited to, cooperative efforts directed at increasing joint purchasing,
85 expanding shared services, increasing innovative measures for delivering higher education, and
86 enhancing academic opportunities for students. PACE shall be governed by a steering
87 committee consisting of the following: the president of the university of Massachusetts; 2
88 persons from the university of Massachusetts appointed by the president to serve for terms not
89 exceeding 4 years, as the president may determine; 3 presidents of the state universities to be
90 selected by vote of the presidents of the 9 state universities conducted at least once every 4 years;
91 3 presidents of the community colleges to be selected by vote of the presidents of the 15
92 community colleges to be conducted at least once every 4 years; and the commissioner of higher
93 education. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the steering committee
94 may hire staff, enter into contracts, interagency or other agreements, apply for federal, state, or
95 other grants, establish subcommittees, and do whatever it deems necessary to carry out the
96 purposes of PACE. The steering committee shall annually submit, on or before March 1, to the
97 joint committee on higher education and the house and senate committees on ways and means a
98 report detailing the results of all PACE initiatives undertaken during the prior year. Monies
99 saved as a result of initiatives undertaken pursuant to this section shall supplement, not offset, or

100 reduce state appropriations provided to the university of Massachusetts, the state universities,
101 and the community colleges, and shall be used by the institutions to reduce the cost of education
102 for students attending these institutions.

103 SECTION 7. Paragraph (B) of section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as amended
104 by section 1 of chapter 65 of the acts of 2013, is hereby amended by adding the following 2
105 clauses:-

106 (m) take all necessary actions, including connecting individuals with education
107 opportunity coordinators established in section 5, to ensure that individuals receiving cash
108 assistance through transitional aid to families with dependent children may engage in community
109 college programs where assessment shows their chances of achieving long-term careers will
110 improve.

111 (n) annually file a report with the chairs of the joint committee on higher education, the
112 joint committee on children, families, and persons with disabilities, and the house and senate
113 committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to:- (1) information
114 regarding the efficacy of community college placements in developing careers for recipients of
115 cash assistance; (2) the number of recipients enrolled in certificate or two-year degree programs
116 at community colleges; (3) the number of recipients enrolled in a certificate or two-year degree
117 program receiving grants under the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund established in section
118 2LLLL of chapter 29; (4) graduation rates of recipients of cash assistance enrolled full time in a
119 certificate or two-year degree program; (5) employment rates of former recipients 6 months after
120 completing a degree or certificate program; and (6) employment rates of former recipients 1 year
121 after completing a degree or certificate program. No personal identifying information shall be

122 used in the report. The first report shall be filed on or before August 1 two years after the
123 TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund is established and annually, on or before August 1, after
124 that.

125 SECTION 8. Section 5 of said chapter 18, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding
126 the following paragraph:-

127 The commissioner shall establish education opportunity coordinator positions within the
128 department. The coordinators shall work with recipients of cash assistance through transitional
129 aid to families with dependent children who enroll in community colleges for the purpose of
130 earning a certificate or two-year degree. The coordinators shall work with recipients, community
131 colleges, and case managers. Coordinators shall provide focused assistance to recipients
132 including but not limited to developing career plans, identifying a program of study, accessing
133 financial aid and work study, and helping obtain other supports such as childcare and
134 transportation assistance. The commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding
135 with the community colleges to ensure coordinators execute the duties of this paragraph. Each
136 community college shall have at least 1 on-campus coordinator.

137 SECTION 9. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
138 section 2K K K K the following section:-

139 2L L L L. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a
140 separate fund to be known as the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as
141 the fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies
142 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited thereto. Middlesex
143 Community College, hereinafter referred to as the college, shall hold the fund in an account or

144 accounts separate from other funds or accounts; provided, however, that the fund shall be
145 administered by the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office. Appropriations
146 unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and may be expended without
147 further appropriation.

148 (b) The fund shall be used to provide and fund employment opportunities for students
149 enrolled full time in a certificate or two-year associate's degree program at any community
150 college who receive cash assistance under transitional aid to families with dependent children.

151 (c) Funds shall be expended to reimburse or pay students receiving cash assistance under
152 transitional aid to families with dependent children and enrolled full time in a certificate or two-
153 year associate's degree program at any community college, provided students may continue to
154 qualify for reimbursement or payment for up to 3 months after the student's cash assistance
155 under transitional aid to families with dependent children expires if the student is still
156 matriculated.

157 (d) Funds expended shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be for jobs at an off-campus
158 community service placement as defined in subsection (f), at the college the student attends, or
159 that provide career development opportunities. For any funds expended for profit-making off-
160 campus employers, said employer shall conduct business in the commonwealth and shall, to the
161 greatest extent feasible, provide demonstrable benefit to the student's academic or vocational
162 pursuits.

163 (e) The share from funds distributed shall not exceed 80 percent of the total compensation
164 paid to students, with the exception of off-campus community service placements as defined in
165 subsection (f). Employers shall pay the costs of any employee benefits including all payments

166 due as an employer's contribution under the state workman's compensation laws, federal Social
167 Security laws, and other applicable laws. The federal work-study program shall not be used to
168 provide the employer's share of student compensation.

169 (f) An off-campus community service placement shall include direct service planning,
170 career development, or applied research that is designed to improve the quality of life for
171 residents of the community served, particularly low-income residents, in such fields as health
172 care, child care, education, literacy training, welfare, social services, public safety, crime
173 prevention and control, transportation, recreation, housing and neighborhood improvement, rural
174 development, and community improvement. Placements shall be identified by the college
175 through formal or informal consultation with local nonprofit, governmental, and community-
176 based organizations.

177 The placement shall not be at an organization for whom a substantial portion of its
178 mission is political activities, including but not limited to electing candidates, influencing ballot
179 questions, and raising money for political campaigns.

180 (g) Students shall be paid the rate of pay as compared to entry-level salaries and wages
181 provided other employees engaged in similar work, provided total applicant resources shall be
182 considered to ensure to the maximum extent feasible that students may remain qualified for other
183 federal and state public assistance programs. The office may make reasonable adjustments to
184 salaries and wages to maximize a student's participation in other federal and state public
185 assistance programs.

186 (h) Funds shall not be expended under the program to compensate students for hours
187 worked in excess of an average of 15 hours per week over the period of enrollment or 30 hours

188 per week during vacation period. A student shall not be concurrently employed in the same
189 position by the fund and the federal work-study program and exceed the 15 hours per week
190 average.

191 (i) Students may receive academic credit for work experience gained through fund jobs.

192 (j) Students who fail to remain on target to graduate or earn a certificate in the regular
193 duration of a full-time student may no longer be eligible for monies from the fund, subject to the
194 discretion of the commissioner.

195 (k) Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, monies received from the
196 Massachusetts TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund established in Section 2LLLL of chapter 29
197 of the General Laws shall not count against a recipient's income, assets, or any other eligibility
198 standard in qualifying for cash assistance benefits.

199 (l) The college and the board of higher education shall enter a memorandum of
200 understanding to ensure that funds are properly expended and disbursed. The college shall enter
201 into agreements with employers, community colleges, the department of transitional assistance,
202 and others for the operation of the fund. These agreements shall include such provisions as the
203 office may deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section. These
204 agreements shall be made available to the board upon request.

205 SECTION 10. The second sentence of section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws,
206 as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 5, after the
207 word "accredited", the words:- public or nonprofit.

208 SECTION 11. Section 2SSS of said chapter 29, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
209 striking out the penultimate sentence, in lines 23-25, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the
210 following sentence:- The amount of the award shall be applied towards student financial need in
211 excess of the financial need met by other federal and state grants without regard to the amount
212 that may be available through loans.

213 SECTION 12. Paragraph (2) of section 2 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing
214 in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subparagraph (Q) the
215 following subparagraph:-

216 (R) Amounts received by an employee paid by the employer as contributions to a prepaid
217 tuition program or college savings program established by the commonwealth or any
218 instrumentality or authority thereof held by the employee if the contributions are made pursuant
219 to section 82 of chapter 63 of the General Laws. The amount excluded from the gross income of
220 an employee for the taxable year shall not exceed \$1,000.

221 SECTION 13. Paragraph (b) of Section 3 B of said chapter 62, as so appearing, is hereby
222 amended by inserting after subparagraph (16) the following subparagraph:-

223 (17) In the case of single individual person or married person filing a separate return or a
224 head of household whose gross income does not exceed \$150,000, either a deduction or a tax
225 credit in an amount equal to the amount expended in a taxable year for the purchase of an interest
226 in, or contributed in a taxable year to an account in, a prepaid tuition program or college savings
227 program established by the commonwealth or any instrumentality or authority thereof; provided,
228 that the total amount deducted in a taxable year shall not exceed \$5,000, and in the case of a tax
229 credit, the tax credit shall not exceed \$1,250. In the case of a married couple filing a joint return

230 whose gross income does not exceed \$300,000, either a deduction or a tax credit in an amount
231 equal to the amount expended in a taxable year for the purchase of an interest in, or contributed
232 in a taxable year to an account in, a prepaid tuition program or college savings program
233 established by the commonwealth or any instrumentality or authority thereof; provided, the total
234 amount deducted in a taxable year shall not exceed \$10,000, and in the case of a tax credit, the
235 tax credit shall not exceed \$2,500.

236 SECTION 14. Chapter 62 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
237 section 6N, the following section:-

238 Section 6O. A person filing an individual or joint return may elect to have any refund to
239 which the person is entitled electronically deposited in an account in a prepaid tuition or college
240 savings program established by the commonwealth or any instrumentality or authority thereof.

241 A deposit under this section may be made with respect to any taxable year at the time of
242 filing a return of the tax established by this chapter for the taxable year. The commissioner shall
243 prescribe the manner in which the deposit shall be made on the face of the return required by
244 section 5 of chapter 62C. The commissioner shall consult with the Massachusetts Educational
245 Financing Authority in carrying out this section.

246 SECTION 15. Chapter 63 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
247 section 81, the following section:-

248 Section 82. A taxpayer who, during the taxable year, makes a contribution to a prepaid
249 tuition program or college savings program established by the commonwealth or any
250 instrumentality or authority thereof in an amount matching a contribution to said programs made
251 in the same taxable year by any employee of the taxpayer whose income does not exceed 200 per

252 cent of the federal poverty level shall be allowed a credit against the tax liability imposed under
253 this chapter in an amount equal to 25 per cent of that matching contribution, but not to exceed
254 \$1,000 per contributing employee per taxable year. For partners, shareholders of Subchapter S
255 corporations, and owners of limited liability companies, if the liability company is treated as a
256 partnership for purposes of federal and State income taxation, there is allowed a credit pursuant
257 to this section to be determined in accordance with the determination of income and distributive
258 share of income according to this chapter and Subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code. If the
259 amount of the credit exceeds the tax liability for the year, the excess may be carried forward and
260 applied to the tax liability of the 5 taxable years following the excess credit year. The tax credit
261 shall be applied to the earliest year for which there is a tax liability. If there are credits for more
262 than one year that are available to offset a liability, the earlier credit shall be applied first.

263 SECTION 16. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
264 section 1N the following section:-

265 Section 10. To equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to become self-
266 supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding personal finances, the
267 department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize and assist in the
268 implementation of standards and objectives on personal financial literacy. The components of
269 personal financial literacy covered in the standards and objectives shall include: understanding
270 loans, borrowing money, interest, credit card debt, and online commerce; rights and
271 responsibilities of renting or buying a home; saving, investing and planning for retirement;
272 banking and financial services; balancing a checkbook; state and federal taxes; paying for
273 postsecondary education; and charitable giving.

274 The department, in consultation with the advisory committee established under Section
275 200 (b) of chapter 138 of the Acts of 2012, shall develop standards and objectives on personal
276 financial literacy, for grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive, within the existing mathematics
277 curriculum for implementation by the start of the 2016-2017 school year. The department shall
278 make available to school districts, charter schools, approved private day or residential schools,
279 and collaborative schools a list of resources to aid in the selection of materials and curriculum on
280 personal financial literacy. The department shall identify and offer information on cost-effective
281 methods for fulfilling the professional development activities needed to implement said
282 standards and objectives. The department may consult with private, nonprofit, or other
283 government institutions in order to identify and offer said information. The department may
284 apply for any federal, state, or other funding, including funding available through the Financial
285 Literacy Trust Fund, as established by section 35QQ of chapter 10 of the General Laws, as
286 amended by Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2011.

287 SECTION 17. Item 7066-0019 of section 2 of chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014, is hereby
288 amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:- provided, further that funds appropriated
289 herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016; and in said item by striking out
290 the figures “750,000” and inserting “4,250,000”.

291 SECTION 18. Item 7066-1221 of section 2 of chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014, is hereby
292 amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:- ; provided, further that not less than
293 \$1,500,000 shall be expended for matching grants for credit bearing vocationally oriented
294 courses; provided, further that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure
295 until June 30, 2016; and in said item by striking out the figures “1,450,000”, and inserting
296 “2,950,000”.

297 SECTION 19. Item 7070-0066 of section 2 of chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014, as
298 amended by Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2014, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof
299 the following:- ; provided, further that not less than \$3,000,000 shall be expended on the
300 scholarship program for in-demand professions; and provided, further that funds appropriated
301 herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016; and in said item by striking out
302 the figures “2,000,000”, and inserting “3,000,000”.

303 SECTION 20. Section 2 of Chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014, is hereby amended by
304 adding the following items:

305 Department of Transitional Assistance

306 4400-XXXX For education opportunity coordinators established in section 5 of chapter
307 18 of the General Laws, as inserted by this act, to assist recipients of transitional aid to families
308 with dependent children in earning a community college certificate or associate’s degree;
309 provided, that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30,
310 2016\$1,250,000

311 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

312 XXXX-XXXX For the development and implementation of standards and curriculum
313 on financial literacy; provided, that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for
314 expenditure until June 30, 2016.....\$1,000,000

315 Department of Higher Education

316 7066-0115 For the purposes of continuing the implementation of section 15E of chapter
317 15A of the General Laws to encourage private fundraising by the commonwealth’s public

318 institutions of higher education for the endowment and capital outlay programs of those
319 institutions; provided, that the board of higher education shall implement this program in a
320 manner which ensures that each institution shall have an opportunity to secure matching funds
321 from this item; provided further, that \$10,000,000 shall be allocated to the university of
322 Massachusetts; provided further, that \$5,000,000 shall be allocated to state universities; provided
323 further, that \$5,000,000 shall be allocated to community colleges; provided further, that if any
324 funds allocated herein for disbursement to state universities and community colleges shall be
325 unused, the remaining funds shall be made available to the university of Massachusetts; provided
326 further, that, to the greatest extent possible, the state universities, community colleges, and the
327 university of Massachusetts shall utilize the funds to increase the number of scholarship
328 opportunities for students; and provided further, that funds appropriated herein shall remain
329 available for expenditure until June 30, 2017\$20,000,000

330 XXXX-XXXX For the Education Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section
331 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws; provided, that funds appropriated herein shall remain
332 available for expenditure until June 30, 2016\$1,500,000

333 XXXX-XXXX For the Licensed Certified Social Worker Student Education Loan
334 Repayment Pilot Program Trust Fund established by this act; provided, that funds appropriated
335 herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016\$1,200,000

336 XXXX-XXXX For the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority to assist in
337 carrying out the early college planning and financing efforts being undertaken by the Authority,
338 and the lower income family postsecondary education savings incentive matching grant pilot
339 program established by this act; provided, that not less than \$1,500,000 shall be expended for the

340 lower income family postsecondary savings incentive matching grant pilot program and shall be
341 credited to the Lower Income Family Postsecondary Education Savings Incentive Matching
342 Grant Pilot Program Trust Fund established by this act ; provided, further that funds appropriated
343 herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016\$2,500,000

344 XXXX-XXXX For the Completion Grant Incentive Fund Pilot Program established by
345 the board of higher education to increase the graduation and success rates of low income students
346 who are enrolled in certificate or degree programs by providing incentive grants to persist and to
347 complete their degree or certificate program of study over a maximum of four years; provided,
348 further that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016
349\$3,000,000

350 XXXX-XXXX For a pilot program to be established by the Massachusetts Educational
351 Financing

352 Authority in accordance with section 5 of Chapter 15C of the General Laws to assist in
353 refinancing higher education loans financed through the Authority that have higher interest rates;
354 provided, further that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June
355 30, 2016\$10,000,000

356 XXXX-XXXX For the development and implementation of the transfer system required
357 by section 9 (hh) of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as inserted by this act; provided, further
358 that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2016
359\$2,500,000

360 XXXX-XXXX For a community colleges internship incentive grant program to be
361 administered by the department of higher education; provided, that the commonwealth shall

362 contribute funds to each community college in an amount to match private contributions in each
363 fiscal year; provided further, that the commonwealth's contribution shall be equal to \$1 for every
364 \$1 privately contributed to each community college's board of trustees or foundation; provided
365 further, that the maximum total contribution from the commonwealth shall be no greater than the
366 amount appropriated herein; provided further, that funds from this program shall not result in any
367 direct or indirect reduction in the commonwealth's appropriation to the institution's operations,
368 scholarships, financial aid or any state appropriation; provided further, the department of higher
369 education shall establish guidelines and criteria for the administration of the program; and
370 provided, further that funds appropriated herein shall remain available for expenditure until June
371 30, 2016.....\$2,000,000

372 Community Colleges

373 7516-XXXX For the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund as established in section
374 2LLLL of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as inserted by this act; provided, that the program
375 shall be administered by the Middlesex Community College through its entity, the Massachusetts
376 Community College Executive Office; provided further, that no more than \$100,000 shall be
377 used to administer the program; and provided, further that funds appropriated herein shall remain
378 available for expenditure until June 30, 2016..... \$1,100,000

379 SECTION 21. (a) There shall be a licensed certified social worker student education loan
380 repayment pilot program, hereinafter referred to as the pilot program, for the purpose of
381 increasing and retaining access to child welfare services and social services in the
382 commonwealth. The pilot program shall provide financial assistance to eligible program
383 participants to assist them in repaying student education loans, as defined in this section;

384 provided, that the pilot program shall be limited to a total of 100 licensed certified social
385 workers. The pilot program shall be administered by the board of higher education established
386 under section 4 of chapter 15A of the General Laws. The board, in collaboration with the
387 executive office of health and human services, shall promulgate guidelines governing the pilot
388 program. The guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to, the following provisions: (1)
389 eligibility shall be limited to persons with incomes that do not exceed 500% of the federal
390 poverty level; (2) eligibility shall be limited to persons entering the field of social work after July
391 1, 2014; (3) eligibility shall be limited to social workers who are licensed certified social workers
392 as defined in section 130 of chapter 112 of the General Laws and who are employed in child
393 welfare, or in a geographic or programmatic setting defined as high need under the guidelines
394 governing the pilot program; (4) the commonwealth shall repay a student education loan at a rate
395 not to exceed \$250 per month for a period not to exceed 48 months; (5) payments by the
396 commonwealth shall be made directly to the lender on behalf of a pilot program participant, and
397 shall cover only loan payments owed by the participant in the months during which the
398 participant works in the commonwealth as a licensed certified social worker in child welfare, or
399 in a geographic or programmatic setting defined as high need under pilot program guidelines; (6)
400 procedures for selecting 100 pilot program participants among eligible applicants; and (7)
401 measures to deal with situations in which a pilot program participant ceases to comply with
402 program requirements. For the purposes of this section, the term student education loan shall
403 mean any indebtedness, including interest on such indebtedness, incurred to pay tuition, fees or
404 other direct expenses incurred in connection with the pursuit of an undergraduate or graduate
405 degree by an applicant, but shall not include loans made by any person related to the applicant,
406 or loans paid by credit card.

407 (b) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
408 fund to be known as the Licensed Certified Social Worker Student Education Loan Repayment
409 Pilot Program Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Licensed Certified Social Worker
410 Education Loan Repayment Fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations or other monies
411 authorized by the general court and designated to be credited thereto. The board of higher
412 education shall hold the Licensed Certified Social Worker Education Loan Repayment Fund in
413 an account separate from other funds or accounts. Amounts credited to the Licensed Certified
414 Social Worker Education Loan Repayment Fund shall be used, without further appropriation, by
415 the commissioner of higher education or his designee, to carry out the licensed certified social
416 worker student education loan repayment pilot program established in this section.

417 (c) The licensed certified social worker student education loan repayment pilot program
418 shall expire once the final payment is made under this section by the board of higher education
419 on behalf of all pilot program participants. The board of higher education shall evaluate the
420 effectiveness of the pilot program and its benefits and costs to the commonwealth and shall
421 submit a report, together with its recommendations on whether a permanent program should be
422 established and if so how such program should be structured, to the house and senate committees
423 on ways and means and the joint committee on higher education, not less than one year prior to
424 the expiration of the pilot program.

425 SECTION 22. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a portion
426 of the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section 2SSS of chapter 29 of
427 the General Laws, as determined by the department of workforce development and the board of
428 higher education, shall be used for a “Supports for Success” pilot program to assist grant
429 recipients complete their degree or certificate programs; provided, that supports provided

430 through said pilot may include, but need not be limited to, intensive advising and counseling,
431 college and career success courses, work study jobs in the students' field of study, learning
432 communities, curricula redesign to support blended or accelerated remediation, mentoring or
433 tutoring, and child care and transportation assistance.

434 (b) On or before December 1 of each year, the department of workforce development and
435 the board of higher education shall submit to the the chairs of house and senate committees on
436 ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on higher education a report on use in the
437 prior fiscal year of the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established by section 2SSS of
438 chapter 29 of the General Laws; provided, that such report shall include, but need not be limited
439 to, the number of grants awarded, the amount of each grant, the level of educational attainment
440 of grant recipients before the grant was awarded, degrees and certificates awarded to recipients,
441 recipient demographic information, recipient retention rates while receiving the grant, and
442 analysis of the strengths and areas of needed improvement in the Educational Rewards Grant
443 Program and the "Supports for Success" pilot program and recommendations for such
444 improvements.

445 SECTION 23. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the board
446 of higher education shall establish a pilot program to promote student employment partnerships
447 between graduates of public and private institutions of higher education in the state and the
448 state's business community. The board shall establish rules and regulations governing the
449 implementation and administration of the pilot program, including, but not limited to, any
450 income eligibility requirements for participating students. The pilot program shall consist of not
451 more than 3 public institutions of higher education and not more than 2 private institutions of
452 higher education in the state, and not more than 5 business entities in the state selected by the

453 board of higher education in consultation with the secretary of housing and economic
454 development. Business entities may consist of, but need not be limited to, employers from the
455 financial services, life sciences, high technology, and health care industries. Not more than 100
456 students may participate in the pilot program. Students eligible to participate in the program
457 shall be in good academic standing at one of the institutions selected to participate in the
458 program, and must have obtained fifty percent or more of the credits needed to graduate.

459 (b) Business entities selected to participate in the pilot program shall supplement a
460 percentage of a participating student's tuition and fees, and in providing this assistance shall
461 receive a 20% state income tax credit on the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees paid by the
462 participating business entity. In exchange for receiving tuition and fee assistance from a
463 participating entity, graduating students shall agree to work in the state for the business entity for
464 an agreed upon period of time, which shall not exceed 24 months. In the event a participating
465 student is unable to perform work for the business entity upon graduation, the student shall
466 refund all or a portion of the financial assistance provided by the business entity, unless the
467 student's failure to perform is based upon a condition or conditions set forth by the board,
468 including, but not limited to, the inability of the business entity to provide the agreed upon
469 employment. If upon a participating student's graduation, the business entity is not able to
470 provide the agreed upon employment for the student, the business entity shall reimburse the state
471 for the amount of the tax credit the business entity received for the student.

472 (c) Not later than 3 years after the commencement of the pilot program, the board of
473 higher education shall file a report with the house and senate committee on ways and means, and
474 the joint committees on higher education, and revenue detailing the results of the pilot program
475 and any recommendations as to whether the program should be continued or expanded.

476 SECTION 24. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
477 otherwise requires, have the following meanings:

478 (1) "Application", an application for a matching grant under the pilot program.

479 (2) "Authority", the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority established under
480 Chapter 803 of the Acts of 1982, as amended.

481 (3) "Federal poverty level", the most recent poverty income guidelines published in the
482 calendar year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

483 (4) "Participant", a qualified individual or family who has been approved for a matching
484 grant under the pilot program.

485 (5) " Pilot Program", the lower income family postsecondary education savings incentive
486 matching grant pilot program established by this section.

487 (6) "Qualified individual or family", an individual or family who resides within the state
488 of Massachusetts and whose household income is not more than 250% of the federal poverty
489 level for the tax year prior to the year in which the application is submitted.

490 (b) There shall be a lower income family postsecondary education savings incentive
491 matching grant pilot program. The purpose of the pilot program is to help lower income
492 individuals and families save for postsecondary education through prepaid tuition programs or
493 college savings accounts established by the Authority by providing a state matching grant for the
494 savings.

495 (c) The Authority shall:

- 496 (1) Implement and administer the pilot program;
- 497 (2) Develop marketing plans and promotional material for the pilot program;
- 498 (3) Prescribe the procedure for, and requirements relating to, the submission and
499 approval of applications;
- 500 (4) Do all things necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this section; and
- 501 (5) Adopt any rules and regulations and policies deemed necessary for implementation
502 and administration of the pilot program.
- 503 (d) Applications shall be submitted to the Authority in the manner and form required by
504 the Authority. Applications shall be accompanied by any information deemed necessary by the
505 Authority. Applications, with proof of income, must be submitted each year using the applicant's
506 household income from the previous tax year.
- 507 (e) The Authority may approve up to a total of 250 applications. Applications shall be
508 approved on a first come, first served basis. The Authority shall provide written notice, to an
509 applicant, of the approval or non-approval of the person's application.
- 510 (f) The amount of contributions made to an account by a participant who establishes a
511 prepaid tuition program or college savings account with the Authority shall be matched by the
512 state if the participant contributes at least \$150 during the calendar year for which the application
513 has been approved. The aggregate of all matching amounts for any participant shall not exceed
514 \$1,000 in any calendar year.

515 (g) The Authority shall deposit in the prepaid tuition program or college savings account
516 of each participant the amount determined by the Authority to meet the matching obligation due
517 to the participant under subsection (f) for the preceding calendar year.

518 (h) The Authority shall ensure that all withdrawals of matching funds are used for
519 postsecondary education.

520 (i) Not later than 5 years after the commencement of the pilot program, the Authority
521 shall submit to the secretary of administration and finance, the house and senate committees on
522 ways and means, and the joint committee on higher education a report evaluating the impact of
523 the pilot program. The report shall include the number of accounts opened under the pilot
524 program, the amount of moneys contributed to accounts by the participants, the average income
525 of the participants, an analysis of the success of the pilot program in meeting the purpose of the
526 pilot program, a recommendation as to whether the pilot program should be continued or
527 expanded, and any other information deemed appropriate by the Authority.

528 (j) Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, monies deposited in a
529 prepaid tuition program or college savings account established under this section shall not count
530 against any recipient's income, assets, or any other eligibility standard in qualifying for any
531 benefits under Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or other state programs.

532 (k) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
533 fund to be known as the Lower Income Family Postsecondary Education Savings Incentive
534 Matching Grant Pilot Program Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as the fund, to which shall be
535 credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies authorized by the general court and
536 specifically designated to be credited thereto. The Authority, shall hold the fund in an account or

537 accounts separate from other funds or accounts. Amounts credited to the fund shall be used by
538 the Authority, without further appropriation, to carry out the lower income family postsecondary
539 education savings incentive matching grant pilot program. Appropriations unexpended at the
540 end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and may be expended by the Authority without
541 further appropriation.

542 SECTION 25. The department of higher education shall study and make
543 recommendations on the “Pay It Forward, Pay It Back” concept for financing postsecondary
544 education whereby, in lieu of paying any tuition or fees, students would sign a binding
545 commitment to pay the state or the state’s public higher educational institutions a certain
546 percentage of their annual income for a specified number of years following graduation. The
547 study shall examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a program to implement the
548 concept in the commonwealth at the state’s public higher education institutions, and shall
549 include, but not be limited to, the following: the costs, sources of funding, including, but not
550 limited, state appropriations, use of state bond funds, or pooling of private investment funds,
551 impact on students, and the impact on existing state funding for the operation of the state’s
552 public higher education institutions, and on state scholarships and grants. The department shall
553 also ascertain the impact any state laws, including, but not limited to, the state constitution and
554 case law regarding annual appropriations of state funds, pledge of the commonwealth’s credit,
555 and the ability of one legislature to bind future legislatures would have on the feasibility of a
556 establishing and funding a program to implement the concept in the state. In so doing, the
557 department shall consult with persons it deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the
558 state’s bond counsel and the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority. The department
559 shall report its findings and recommendations to the board of higher education, the joint

560 committee on higher education, and the house and senate committees on ways and means on or
561 before December 31, 2015.

562 SECTION 26. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
563 commonwealth shall appropriate in addition to the amounts provided for the ordinary
564 maintenance of the university of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community
565 colleges in line items 7100-0200, 7109-0100, 7110-0100, 7112-0100, 7113-0100, 7114-0100,
566 7115-0100, 7116-0100, 7117-0100, 7118-0100, 7502-0100, 7503-0100, 7504-0100, 7505-0100,
567 7506-0100, 7507-0100, 7508-0100, 7509-0100, 7510-0100, 7511-0100, 7512-0100, 7514-0100,
568 7515-0100, 7516-0100, 7518-0100 in the general appropriations act for fiscal year 2015, the total
569 amount of such appropriations shall be increased as follows: in fiscal year 2016, by a total of not
570 less than an additional \$95,000,000; in fiscal year 2017, by a total of not less than an additional
571 \$95,000,000; in fiscal year 2018, by a total of not less than an additional \$95,000,000; in fiscal
572 year 2019, by a total of not less than an additional \$95,000,000; and in fiscal year 2020, by a
573 total of not less than an additional \$95,000,000. The dollar amounts specified in this paragraph
574 shall be increased to reflect any increases in inflation and collective bargaining increases. If the
575 additional funds required under this paragraph are provided in each fiscal year to the university
576 of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community colleges, each institution receiving
577 sufficient additional funding shall freeze tuition and mandatory curriculum fee increases for the
578 academic year during which the funding is provided.

579 SECTION 27. Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, the
580 commonwealth shall appropriate in addition to the amount provided for scholarships and
581 financial aid in line item 7070-0065 in the general appropriations act for fiscal year 2015, the
582 total amount of such appropriation shall be increased as follows: in fiscal year 2016, by a total

583 of not less than an additional \$42,000,000; in fiscal year 2017, by a total of not less than an
584 additional \$42,000,000; in fiscal year 2018, by a total of not less than an additional \$42,000,000;
585 in fiscal year 2019, by a total of not less than an additional \$42,000,000; and in fiscal year 2020,
586 by a total of not less than an additional \$42,000,000. The additional funding required by this
587 paragraph shall be made available for the so-called MASSGrant program administered by the
588 board of higher education.

589 SECTION 28. The house and senate committees on ways and means, in consultation
590 with the presidents of the state universities, the board of higher education, the executive office
591 for administration and finance, and the joint committee on higher education, shall develop a
592 funding formula to determine the allocation of state appropriations in the annual state budget to
593 the individual state universities. The formula shall consist of two parts: base funding and
594 performance funding. Base funding shall be based upon and allocated on factors relating to
595 enrollment and the cost of education. Performance funding shall be based upon and allocated on
596 factors relating to outcomes. The outcome afforded the most weight for performance funding
597 shall be increasing the number of students who complete their degrees; provided that, additional
598 points shall be given for graduating students who might have been considered at-risk of not
599 completing their education, including students from lower income households, African-
600 Americans students, Latino students, adult students, students with severe disabilities, and those
601 who may have been less academically prepared upon entry. Additional performance outcomes
602 as deemed relevant may be included in the formula. The funding formula may be updated as
603 needed from time to time, and shall be available for use commencing with the fiscal year 2016
604 annual budget.

605 SECTION 29. The president of the university of Massachusetts, in consultation with the
606 chair of the board of trustees of the university and the chancellors of the campuses, shall develop
607 a funding formula to determine the allocation of state appropriations received by the university in
608 the annual state budget to the individual campuses that includes, but is not limited to,
609 performance funding. Performance funding shall be based upon and allocated on factors relating
610 to outcomes. The outcome afforded the most weight for performance funding shall be increasing
611 the number of students who complete their degrees; provided that, additional points shall be
612 given for graduating students who might have been considered at-risk of not completing their
613 education, including students from lower income households, African-American students, Latino
614 students, adult students, students with severe disabilities, and those who may have been less
615 academically prepared upon entry. Additional performance outcomes may be included in the
616 formula as deemed relevant to the mission of the university.

617 SECTION 30. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all tuition
618 received by the board of trustees of the university of Massachusetts paid by students attending
619 the University of Massachusetts at Worcester who reside in the state shall be retained by the
620 board of trustees in a revolving trust fund and shall be expended as the administration of the
621 University of Massachusetts at Worcester directs in accordance with regulations established by
622 the board. Any balance in the trust fund at the close of the fiscal years shall be available for
623 expenditures in subsequent fiscal years and shall not revert to the General Fund. For any
624 employees of the University of Massachusetts at Worcester who are paid from tuition retained
625 pursuant to this section, fringe benefits shall be funded as if those employees' salaries were
626 supported by state appropriations. This section shall apply only to fringe benefits associated

627 with salaries paid from tuition retained by the board of trustees of the University of
628 Massachusetts as a direct result of the implementation of this section.

629 SECTION 31. To provide for a program of capital improvements to public higher
630 education institutions to provide support for these institutions in carrying out their educational
631 missions and to enhance regional economic development through their educational initiatives,
632 the sums set forth in this section, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified
633 in this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public
634 funds, which sums shall be in addition to any other amounts previously appropriated for these
635 purposes.

636 EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

637 Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance

638 7066-XXXX For costs associated with planning and studies, dispositions, acquisition of
639 land and buildings and interests therein by purchase or by eminent domain under chapter 79 of
640 the General Laws and for the preparation of plans and specifications, repairs, construction,
641 renovations, improvements, maintenance and repair, asset management and demolition at the
642 state universities and community college campus facilities and grounds; provided, that all
643 projects approved for design and construction by the division of capital asset management and
644 maintenance for the state universities and community colleges shall be consistent in priority and
645 need with capital master plans developed by the division of capital asset management and
646 maintenance, in consultation with the presidents of the state universities and community colleges
647 and approved by the board of higher education; and provided further, that all maintenance and

648 repair work funded by this item shall be included in the capital asset management information
649 system administered by the division of capital asset management.....\$2,100,000,000

650 7100-XXXX For costs associated with planning and studies, dispositions, acquisition of
651 land and buildings and interests therein by purchase or by eminent domain under chapter 79 of
652 the General Laws and for the preparation of plans and specifications, repairs, construction,
653 renovations, improvements, maintenance and repair, asset management and demolition at the
654 university of Massachusetts campus facilities and grounds; provided, that all projects approved
655 for design and construction by the division of capital asset management and maintenance for the
656 university of Massachusetts shall be consistent in priority and need with capital master plans
657 developed by the university of Massachusetts and approved by the board of trustees of the
658 university of Massachusetts; and provided further, that all maintenance and repair work funded
659 by this item shall be included in the capital asset management information system administered
660 by the division of capital asset management\$2,100,000,000

661 SECTION 32. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 31, the state
662 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
663 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,
664 \$4,200,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their
665 face, Public Higher Education Capital Expenditure Act of 2015, and shall be issued for a
666 maximum term of years, not exceeding 30 years, as the governor may recommend to the general
667 court under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. The bonds shall be
668 payable not later than June 30, 2054. All interest and payments on account of principal on these
669 obligations shall be payable from the General Fund. Bonds and interest on bonds issued under

670 this section shall, notwithstanding any other provision of this act, be general obligations of the
671 commonwealth.

672 SECTION 33. The secretary of administration and finance shall submit a report on the
673 progress and all expenditures related to any projects funded through the authorizations in Section
674 31 of this act to the secretary of education, the board of higher education, the chairs of the senate
675 and house committees on ways and means, the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on
676 higher education, and the chairs of the committees on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State
677 Assets. The report shall include, but not be limited to: the total amount appropriated for each
678 project; the total estimated cost of each project; the amount expended for the planning and design
679 of each project up to the time the report is filed; the amount expended on construction of each
680 project up to the time the report is filed; the total amount currently expended on each project; the
681 estimated lifetime maintenance schedule and cost of each project; the original estimated
682 completion date of each project; and the current anticipated completion date of each project.
683 The report shall be submitted on December 31 of each year for a period of 10 years from the
684 effective date of this act.

685 SECTION 34. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the
686 contrary, not later than the start of the fall semester of 2016 and for each semester thereafter, if a
687 public institution of higher education determines, by use of multiple commonly accepted
688 measures of skill level, that a student is likely to succeed in college level work with supplemental
689 support, the public institution of higher education shall offer the student remedial support that is
690 embedded with the corresponding entry level course in a college level program. The embedded
691 support shall be offered during the same semester as and in conjunction with the entry level
692 course for purposes of providing the student with supplemental support in the entry level course.

693 (b) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2016 and for each semester thereafter, if
694 a public institution of higher education determines, by use of multiple commonly accepted
695 measures of skill level, that a student is below the skill level required for success in college level
696 work, the public institution of higher education shall offer the student the opportunity to
697 participate in an intensive college readiness program before the start of the next semester. The
698 student shall complete the intensive college readiness program prior to receiving embedded
699 remedial support, as provided in subsection (a) of this section. The board of higher education, in
700 consultation with the university of Massachusetts, the state universities, and the community
701 colleges, shall develop options for an intensive college readiness program.

702 (c) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2016 and for each semester thereafter,
703 no public institution of higher education shall offer any remedial support, including remedial
704 courses, that is not embedded with the corresponding entry level course, as required pursuant to
705 subsection (a) of this section, or offered as part of an intensive college readiness program, except
706 the institution may offer a student a maximum of one semester of remedial support that is not
707 embedded, provided (1) the support is intended to advance the student toward earning a degree,
708 and (2) the program of remedial support is approved by the board of higher education.

709 (d) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2017 and for each semester thereafter,
710 board of higher education and the board of elementary and secondary education shall complete
711 curricular alignment to enable the successful completion of the high school mathematics and
712 language arts curricula, as described in Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for English
713 Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics as adopted by the board of elementary and secondary
714 education, to be the indicator of readiness for college level work. A public institution of higher
715 education may use available evaluation instruments to assess adults, who are returning to or first

716 enrolling in a higher education program at a public institution of higher education after spending
717 time in the workforce, for readiness for college level work.

718 (e) Not later than the start of the school year commencing July 1, 2016, and for each
719 school year thereafter, the board of higher education shall ensure that each public institution of
720 higher education works with the department of elementary of secondary education and the local
721 and regional school districts to (1) use available evaluation methods for early assessment of the
722 potential for college readiness of each student enrolled in the eighth and tenth grades in a public
723 school, and (2) share the results of the assessment with the student, the student's parents or legal
724 guardian and the public school in which the student is enrolled.