

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3000**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Sean Garballey and Natalie Higgins*

*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 to establish a finish line grant program to encourage college completion.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Juana B. Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3000**

By Representatives Garballey of Arlington and Higgins of Leominster, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3000) of Sean Garballey, Natalie Higgins and others for legislation to provide scholarships for programs leading to an associate’s or bachelor’s degree. Higher Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**

An Act to establish a finish line grant program to encourage college completion.

*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 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by inserting, after section 16, the following new section:-

3 Section 16A. Finish Line Scholarship Program

4 There shall be a Finish Line Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to  
5 cover the entire cost of tuition and fees for one year other than the first, in a program leading to  
6 an associate’s or bachelor’s degree at a Massachusetts public college or university. The  
7 scholarships will be available to residents of the Commonwealth in need of financial assistance  
8 whose family income is less than twice the median family income in Massachusetts.

9 The Department of Higher Education shall establish guidelines governing said  
10 program, which shall include but not be limited to eligibility requirements, selection criteria  
11 (such as acceptable grades and an academic plan for timely degree completion), and other  
12 guidelines designed to help meet the department’s goals, such as increasing overall student

13 success and graduation rates, and lowering achievement gaps for high-risk students; provided,  
14 further, that no funds from this scholarship program may be used to pay the tuition or fees for  
15 any course or program offered or administered by a non-public entity and that no student shall be  
16 eligible to receive a scholarship from this program more than one time.

17                   If funds appropriated for this program are insufficient to cover costs of  
18 qualified applicants, the department shall hold a lottery to distribute funds for available  
19 scholarships, provided that the funds are distributed equitably to community college, state  
20 university, and University of Massachusetts students. The funds for the program are meant to  
21 supplement and not supplant existing scholarship funds; funds for this program shall not be  
22 derived from existing financial aid programs the Commonwealth administers.

23                   The department shall provide the Joint Committee of Higher Education of the  
24 General Court a report analyzing the usage, achievements and costs of this program, together  
25 with recommendations for its future, no later than 120 days following the program's first year of  
26 operation.