

SENATE No. 2247

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, January 11, 2018

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill relative to uniform financial aid information (Senate, No. 680),-- reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft entitled "An Act requiring institutions of higher education to provide uniform financial aid information to accepted applicants" (Senate, No. 2247).

For the committee,
Karen E. Spilka

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act requiring institutions of higher education to provide uniform financial aid information to accepted applicants.

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 however,
7 that “accepted applicant” shall include a transfer student accepted into a full-time undergraduate
8 program at an institution of higher education.

9 “Institution of higher education”, a 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 or 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 U.S.C. 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 applicant’s decision to enroll in the institution of higher education. The uniform financial aid
19 information shopping sheet shall be provided to an accepted applicant within a reasonable time
20 prior to the institution’s enrollment deadline. An institution of higher education may provide an
21 electronic 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 any term defined within the uniform financial aid information shopping sheet shall
25 have the same meaning in any additional financial aid information provided by an institution of
26 higher education.

27 (d) The department of higher education may promulgate regulations to implement this
28 section.

29 SECTION 2. The uniform financial aid information shopping sheet shall be provided to
30 all accepted applicants as required by section 45 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, beginning
31 in the 2019-2020 academic year.