

SENATE No. 2274

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, Thursday, February 1, 2018

The committee on Higher Education to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 667) of Harriette L. Chandler, Marjorie C. Decker, Jason M. Lewis, Barbara A. L'Italien and other members of the General Court for legislation to ensure students' access to academic transcripts,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2274).

For the committee,
Michael O. Moore

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An Act ensuring students' access to academic transcripts.

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 2016 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 19E the following section:-

3 Section 19F.

4 (a) Institutions of higher education shall not withhold a student's unofficial academic
5 transcript solely due to the student's failure to pay any loan payments, fines, fees, tuition, or other
6 expenses owed to the institution, except that a student's academic credits and grades may be
7 withheld for any course for which the student's tuition and mandatory course fees are not paid in
8 full. For students paying on a per semester basis, an institution may withhold a student's
9 academic credits or grades for any course taken in a semester for which the student's tuition and
10 mandatory course fees have not been paid.

11 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an institution of higher education
12 from withholding a student's diploma or degree due to the student's failure to pay any loan
13 payments, fines, fees, tuition, or other expenses owed to the institution.

14 (c) This section shall apply to all postsecondary institutions including: (i) the system of
15 public institutions of higher education, established in section 5; (ii) private occupational schools,
16 as defined in section 263 of chapter 112; and (iii) private colleges, universities and other
17 institutions of higher learning.

18 (d) The department of higher education shall promulgate any rules, regulations, or
19 guidelines consistent with this section necessary for its implementation.