

SENATE No. 671

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Viriato M. deMacedo

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 state reciprocity agreements.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Viriato M. deMacedo</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>

SENATE No. 671

By Mr. deMacedo, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 671) of Viriato M. deMacedo, Donald F. Humason, Jr. and Thomas J. Calter for legislation relative to state reciprocity agreements. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to state reciprocity agreements.

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 9 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:-
3 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or specific law to the contrary, the board
4 of higher education shall have the authority to enter into interstate reciprocity agreements that
5 authorize any accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education located in
6 Massachusetts to voluntarily participate in such reciprocity agreements and to provide distance
7 education programs to students in other states in accordance with the provisions of such
8 agreements. The authority granted by this paragraph applies only to distance learning programs
9 and does not affect other approvals of institutions of higher education or programs required
10 under Massachusetts law, nor does it affect any exemptions for institutions of higher education
11 or programs. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit accredited, degree-granting
12 institutions of higher education located in Massachusetts that do not participate in any interstate

13 reciprocity agreement entered into by the board of higher education from offering postsecondary
14 distance education programs. Provided further, that nothing in this section shall be construed to
15 affect the authority of the Attorney General to enforce statutes and regulations prohibiting
16 consumer fraud and unfair or deceptive business practices, including, Chapter 93A, and to
17 enforce the federal Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, as authorized by 12 U.S.C. 5552.