

SENATE No. 677

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Eileen M. Donoghue

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 protecting students and increasing accountability at Massachusetts colleges and universities.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i> | <i>First Middlesex</i> | |
| <i>Rady Mom</i> | <i>18th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/1/2017</i> |

SENATE No. 677

By Ms. Donoghue, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 677) of Eileen M. Donoghue and Rady Mom for legislation to reform institutional eligibility requirements for state-based financial aid. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 662 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act protecting students and increasing accountability at Massachusetts colleges and universities.

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 16 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

3 No state scholarship funds under this section, any other section of this chapter, or other
4 state student financial aid however provided, shall be made available to, or on behalf, of any
5 student enrolled in any postsecondary educational institution which the board of higher education
6 determines does not meet the requirements of this paragraph. To meet the requirements of this
7 paragraph, a postsecondary educational institution shall demonstrate to the board that it has: (i)
8 graduation rates of not less than 30 per cent for undergraduate students taking 150 per cent or
9 less of the expected time to complete degree requirements, as most recently reported by the U.S.

10 Department of Higher Education, provided, that graduation rates shall include students who
11 transfer; or (ii) an average 3 year cohort default rate that is not more than 20 per cent, as most
12 recently reported by the U.S. Department of Education. The board of higher education shall
13 promulgate rules and regulations to implement this paragraph including, but not limited to,
14 procedures and processes for annually determining which postsecondary educational institutions
15 meet the requirements of this paragraph, and a process for an institution to appeal a
16 determination that they do not meet the necessary requirements. The board of higher education
17 shall annually post a list of institutions that meet the requirements of this paragraph on the
18 department of higher education's website.