

**SENATE . . . . . No. 685**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Linda Dorcena Forry***

*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 regarding tuition equity for high school graduates in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	

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By Ms. Forry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 685) of Linda Dorcena Forry, Jonathan Hecht, Daniel Cullinane and Elizabeth A. Malia for legislation relative to the eligibility of students for in-state tuition rates and fees at public higher educational institutions. Higher Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 666 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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An Act regarding tuition equity for high school graduates in the Commonwealth.

*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 most recently amended by section 20 of chapter 189  
2 of the acts of 2010, is hereby amended by adding the following section:—

3 Section 9C(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose  
4 of determining eligibility for in-state tuition rates and fees at state institutions of higher education  
5 in Massachusetts, any person admitted to such state institutions of higher education, other than a  
6 nonimmigrant alien within the meaning of paragraph 15 of subsection (a)(A) through (S) of 8  
7 U.S.C., section 1101 of the federal act, who has attended a high school in the commonwealth for  
8 3 or more years and has graduated from a high school in the commonwealth or attained the  
9 equivalent thereof from an adult basic education program in the commonwealth, shall be eligible

10 to pay in-state tuition rates and fees at any state institution of higher education in the  
11 commonwealth.

12 (b) Any such person shall: (A) if eligible for the military selective service under the  
13 federal Military Selective Service Act, as amended by 50 U.S.C., App. 453, section 3, register  
14 for such; (B) provide the state institution of higher education in the commonwealth in which  
15 enrollment is sought with documentation of registration with the selective service, if applicable;  
16 (C) supply the state institution of higher education in which enrollment is sought with a valid  
17 social security number or a document reflecting issuance of an individual taxpayer identification  
18 number (ITIN) in lieu of a social security number; (D) file, in every year of enrollment, a  
19 Massachusetts income tax return pursuant to chapter 62 of the general laws; and (E) file at the  
20 time of enrollment, if that person is not a citizen of the United States or a legal permanent  
21 resident of the United States, an affidavit signed under the pains and penalties of perjury stating  
22 that the person has applied for citizenship or legal permanent residence or will apply for  
23 citizenship or legal permanent residence in accordance with federal statute and federal  
24 regulations within 120 days of eligibility for such status.

25 (c) No person qualified for in-state tuition rates and fees under this chapter shall be  
26 denied in-state tuition and fees as a result of the granting of eligibility under this paragraph.