

**SENATE . . . . . No. 696**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Barbara A. L'Italien***

*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 improving graduation rates at public colleges and universities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>

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By Ms. L'Italien, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 696) of Barbara A. L'Italien and James B. Eldridge for legislation relative to improving graduation rates at public colleges and universities. Higher Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 673 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to improving graduation rates at public 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 9 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting, after subsection (gg), the following subsection:-

3           (hh) develop and administer a policy requiring all public institutions of higher education  
4 to provide flexibility in graduation requirements for students who have one or more diagnosed  
5 and documented intellectual or developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders,  
6 and are enrolled in credit-bearing classes with the intent of earning a degree.