

HOUSE No. 1330

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Garballey

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 to establish a finish line grant program to encourage college completion.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1330

By Mr. Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1330) of Sean Garballey for legislation to provide scholarships for the cost of tuition and fees for certain non-first year students at public colleges or universities. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to establish a finish line grant program to encourage college completion.

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 2018 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting, after section 16, the following new section:-

3 Section 16A. There shall be a Finish Line Grant Program to provide scholarships to cover
4 the entire cost of tuition and fees for one year other than the first, in a program leading to an
5 associate’s or bachelor’s degree at a Massachusetts public college or university. The scholarships
6 will be available to residents of the Commonwealth in need of financial assistance whose family
7 income is less than one hundred seventy five percent of median family income in Massachusetts.

8 The Department of Higher Education shall establish guidelines governing said program,
9 which shall include but not be limited to eligibility requirements, selection criteria (such as
10 acceptable grades and an academic plan for timely degree completion), and other guidelines
11 designed to help meet the department’s goals, such as increasing overall student success and
12 graduation rates, and lowering achievement gaps for high-risk students; provided, further, that no

13 funds from this scholarship program may be used to pay the tuition or fees for any course or
14 program offered or administered by a non-public entity and that no student shall be eligible to
15 receive a scholarship from this program more than one time.

16 The funds for the program are meant to supplement and not supplant existing scholarship
17 funds; funds for this program shall not be derived from existing financial aid programs the
18 Commonwealth administers.

19 The department shall provide the Joint Committee on Higher Education of the General
20 Court a report analyzing the usage, achievements and costs of this program, together with
21 recommendations for its future, no later than 120 days following the program's first year of
22 operation.