HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2616 FILED ON: 2/18/2021

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1367

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Andres X. Vargas and Chynah Tyler

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 facilitate additional financial student assistance.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Andres X. Vargas	*3rd Essex*	*2/18/2021*
Chynah Tyler	*7th Suffolk*	*2/18/2021*
Russell E. Holmes	*6th Suffolk*	*2/18/2021*
Marcos A. Devers	*16th Essex*	*2/18/2021*
Christina A. Minicucci	*14th Essex*	*2/26/2021*
Orlando Ramos	*9th Hampden*	*2/26/2021*
Michelle L. Ciccolo	*15th Middlesex*	*2/26/2021*
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	*1st Hampshire*	*2/26/2021*
Jack Patrick Lewis	*7th Middlesex*	*2/26/2021*
Carlos González	*10th Hampden*	*2/26/2021*
Mary S. Keefe	*15th Worcester*	*3/8/2021*
Elizabeth A. Malia	*11th Suffolk*	*3/15/2021*
Tram T. Nguyen	*18th Essex*	*3/25/2021*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*	*5/3/2021*
Tommy Vitolo	*15th Norfolk*	*12/1/2021*

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By Representatives Vargas of Haverhill and Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1367) of Andres X. Vargas, Chynah Tyler and others that graduating high school students be required to complete applications for federal and state higher education financial aid. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to facilitate additional financial student assistance.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after paragraph (iii) the following: -

(iv) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the commonwealth to maximize federal and state postsecondary financial aid options through the encouragement and requirement of graduating students to complete the applicable application for federal and state financial aid.

Before graduating from high school, each student must complete and submit a free application for federal student aid, also known as FAFSA.

A student is not required to comply with subsection (a) if: (1) the student ’s parent or guardian submits a signed form indicating that the parent or guardian authorizes the student to decline to complete and submit the financial aid application; or (2) the student signs and submits the form referenced in subsection (1) on the student ’s own behalf if the student is 18 years of

age or older; or (3) the student's school district applies for a hardship waiver to be approved by the department of elementary and secondary education, if the student has not reached 18 years of age.

Each school district shall adopt a form to be used for the purposes of subsection (b) that is approved by the department of elementary and secondary education.

Completion of the Free Application for Student Financial Assistance, also known as FAFSA, shall be a condition for high school graduation.

Prior to completion of high school, each school district shall ensure that every student complies with subsection (a) or (b).

The commissioner shall provide guidance to districts to related to the implementation of this section regarding the distribution of information related to this requirement, reporting requirements expected of school districts, and information to parents and guardians related to all options for high school students. Provided further, each district must annually report to the department of elementary and secondary education by September 30 the following: number of students completing and submitting the free application for federal student aid; the number of students who received an exemption to this requirement through paragraph (iv) subsection (b).

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.