

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carmine Lawrence Gentile

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 making public higher education in Massachusetts free for residents of the state.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/21/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1216 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act making public higher education in Massachusetts free for residents of the state.

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 1. Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 5A the following section:

3 Section 5B. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the
4 contrary, no tuition or mandatory curriculum fees shall be charged to any resident of the state at
5 any community college listed in section 5. The commonwealth, not the community colleges,
6 shall bear the cost of providing free community colleges for residents of the state.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official
8 Edition, is hereby amended by deleting section 9B and substituting the following sections:

9 Section 9B(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the
10 contrary, no tuition or mandatory curriculum fees shall be charged to any resident of the state at

11 any community college listed in section 5 nor at any state university or the university of
12 Massachusetts. The commonwealth, not the community colleges, state universities, or the
13 university of Massachusetts, shall bear the cost of providing free public higher education for
14 residents of the state.

15 9B(ii) There shall be a program, subject to appropriation, of needs-based financial
16 assistance, administered by the board of higher education, to provide full or partial scholarships
17 for non-residents of the commonwealth enrolled in and pursuing a part-time or full-time program
18 of higher education in any of the institutions of higher education in the commonwealth. The
19 council shall establish guidelines to govern said program. Said guidelines shall be filed with the
20 house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on higher education
21 within thirty days of the approval by the council of said guidelines.