SENATE DOCKET, NO. 625 FILED ON: 2/3/2021

SENATE . . . . . No. 821

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 ensuring students' access to academic transcripts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Harriette L. Chandler	*First Worcester*	
David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf	*17th Worcester*	*2/22/2021*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*	*2/25/2021*
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	*1st Hampshire*	*2/26/2021*
Michael O. Moore	*Second Worcester*	*3/8/2021*
Susan L. Moran	*Plymouth and Barnstable*	*3/15/2021*
Eric P. Lesser	*First Hampden and Hampshire*	*3/17/2021*
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*	*4/14/2021*
Danillo A. Sena	*37th Middlesex*	*6/25/2021*
Brendan P. Crighton	*Third Essex*	*12/28/2021*

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By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 821) of Harriette L. Chandler, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Kay Khan, Lindsay N. Sabadosa and other members of the General Court for legislation to ensure students' access to academic transcripts. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *738* OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act ensuring students' access to academic transcripts.

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. Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 19E the following section:-

Section 19F.

(a) Institutions of higher education shall not withhold a student's academic transcripts solely due to that student's failure to pay any loan payments, fines, fees, tuition, or other expenses owed to the institution, except that a student's academic credits and grades may be withheld for any course for which that student's tuition and mandatory course fees are not paid in full. For students paying on a per semester basis, such an institution may withhold a student’s

academic credits or grades for any course taken in a semester for which that student’s tuition and mandatory course fees have not been paid.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an institution of higher education from withholding a student's diploma or degree due to that student's failure to pay any loan payments, fines, fees, tuition, or other expenses owed to the institution.

(c) This section shall apply to all postsecondary institutions including: (i) the system of public institutions of higher education, established in section 5; (ii) private occupational schools, as defined in section 263 of chapter 112; and (iii) private colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning.

(d) The department of higher education shall promulgate regulations consistent with this section necessary for its implementation.