

**SENATE . . . . . No. 823**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sonia Chang-Diaz***

*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 providing access to higher education for high school graduates in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>4/25/2021</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>6/23/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/22/2021</i>

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By Ms. Chang-Diaz, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 823) of Sonia Chang-Diaz, Elizabeth A. Malia and Danillo A. Sena for legislation to provide access to higher education opportunities for high school graduates in the Commonwealth. Higher Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 740 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act providing access to higher education for high school graduates in the Commonwealth.

*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. Section 9 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

3 "Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of  
4 determining eligibility for in-state tuition rates and fees and for state-funded financial assistance  
5 at public institutions of higher education, except the University of Massachusetts Medical School  
6 and the University of Massachusetts School of Law, any person admitted to such public  
7 institutions of higher education, other than a nonimmigrant alien within the meaning of  
8 paragraph 15 of subsection (a)(A) through (S) of 8 U.S.C., section 1101 of the federal act, who  
9 has attended high school in the commonwealth for 3 or more years and has graduated from a  
10 high school in the commonwealth or attained the equivalent thereof in the commonwealth, shall

11 be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates and fees, and shall be eligible on the same terms as other  
12 persons for state-funded financial assistance, at the University of Massachusetts, or any other  
13 state university or state college or community college in the commonwealth; provided, however,  
14 that any person who is eligible for the military selective service under the federal Military  
15 Selective Service Act, as amended by 50 U.S.C., 14 App. 453, section 3, shall register for such.  
16 No person qualified for in-state tuition rates and fees under this chapter shall be denied in-state  
17 tuition and fees as a result of the granting of eligibility under this paragraph. An eligible person  
18 shall provide the University of Massachusetts, or any other state university or state college or  
19 community college in the commonwealth with (i) a valid social security number or a document  
20 reflecting issuance of an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) in lieu of a social  
21 security number; (ii) if that person is not a citizen of the United States or a legal permanent  
22 resident of the United States, an affidavit signed under the pains and penalties of perjury stating  
23 that the person has applied for citizenship or legal permanent residence or will apply for  
24 citizenship or legal permanent residence in accordance with federal statute and federal  
25 regulations within 120 days of eligibility for such status and (iii) documentation of registration  
26 with the selective service, if applicable. The Legislature finds that this is a state law within the  
27 meaning of 8 U.S.C. 1621(d). "