

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2687

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)

SENATE, April 1, 2024.

The committee on Higher Education, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 821) of Lydia Edwards for legislation to ban legacy preferences in higher education; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1819) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Pavel M. Payano for legislation to advance fairness, integrity, and excellence in higher education admissions; (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1282) of Michael J. Moran relative to the consideration of familial relationships to graduates in applications to higher education institutions; and (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3760) of Simon Cataldo, Pavel M. Payano and others relative to higher education admissions, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2687).

For the committee,  
Joanne M. Comerford

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to higher education admissions policy.

*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 is hereby amended by  
2 adding the following paragraph:-

3           When deciding whether to grant admission to an applicant, a public institution of higher  
4 education shall not consider the applicant’s familial relationship to a person who attends or  
5 attended the institution. A public institution of higher education shall not include in the  
6 documents that it uses to consider an applicant for admission information that discloses the name  
7 of any college or university that any relative of the applicant attended.

8           SECTION 2. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
9 section 30A the following section:-

10           Section 30B. When deciding whether to grant admission to an applicant, a degree-  
11 granting institution of higher education located in the commonwealth authorized to grant degrees  
12 by the board of higher education shall not consider the applicant’s familial relationship to a  
13 person who attends or attended the institution. Such institution shall not include in the documents

14 that it uses to consider an applicant for admission information that discloses the name of any  
15 college or university that any relative of the applicant attended.

16 SECTION 3. The department of higher education shall review and make  
17 recommendations regarding the use of binding early decision admission policies in the  
18 commonwealth. For the purposes of this section, the term “binding early decision admission  
19 policy” shall mean an admission policy of a college or university that allows a student to apply at  
20 an earlier stage of the admissions process, receive an expedited admissions decision, and absent  
21 extenuating circumstances, requires the student to pledge to attend the institution upon receiving  
22 a decision of admittance.

23 The review shall include, but not be limited to, the number of institutions that maintain a  
24 binding early decision admission policy; the number of students who apply and are accepted  
25 under that policy; the impact of the policy on equity and diversity among enrolled students  
26 including diversity and representation among enrolled students of (1) students of various  
27 economic statuses, including students that receive a maximum federal Pell Grant, a less than  
28 maximum federal Pell Grant, and students that receive a federal subsidized Stafford Loan but not  
29 a federal Pell Grant; (2) students of diverse racial and ethnic identities, including  
30 underrepresented and vulnerable groups, disaggregated by major racial and ethnic subgroup; and  
31 (3) immigrant and first-generation students. In preparing the review, the department shall consult  
32 with the Attorney General; the department of elementary and secondary education; the chairs of  
33 the Joint Committee on Higher Education; the Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights,  
34 and Inclusion; the Advisory Council for the Advancement of Representation in Education and  
35 organizations concerned with equity and education in Massachusetts, including the  
36 Massachusetts Education Equity Partnership; the University of Massachusetts; the Massachusetts

37 State Universities Council of Presidents; the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges;  
38 the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts; and any other  
39 stakeholders that the department identifies.

40 The review and recommendations shall include analysis of the overall impact of binding  
41 early decision admissions policies and make recommendations to public and private institutions  
42 of higher education concerning their admissions policies. The review may also include  
43 recommendations to the General Court for legislation.

44 The review and recommendations shall be published on the website of the department  
45 and submitted to the chairs of the joint committee on higher education and the joint committee  
46 on racial equity, civil rights, and inclusion no later than 1 year after the effective date of this act.

47 SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect for admission decisions that lead to an  
48 applicant's initial enrollment in a higher education institution in the 2025-2026 school year and  
49 thereafter.