

HOUSE No. 1443

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 relative to higher education tuition and fee waivers for seniors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2025</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 1443

By Representative Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1443) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others relative to higher education tuition and fee waivers for seniors. Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1274 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to higher education tuition and fee waivers for seniors.

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

1 There is hereby established a pilot reimbursement program for all public institutions of
2 higher education in the Commonwealth, including all state universities, community colleges and
3 University of Massachusetts campuses, providing tuition and fee waivers for senior citizens age
4 60 and older pursuant to the provisions of section 19 of chapter 15A of the General Laws. Said
5 tuition and fee waivers shall apply to qualifying seniors who are enrolled in undergraduate
6 programs, summer sessions, evening classes, or any specific higher education courses or set of
7 courses between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026, but said enrollment shall be subject to space
8 availability and shall not exceed four courses per academic year. On or before August 1, 2026,
9 all state universities, community colleges and University of Massachusetts campuses shall
10 provide the state Comptroller, the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees, and the Joint

11 Committee on Higher Education with a detailed breakdown of the tuition and fee revenues
12 foregone as a result of said waivers. Upon receipt and certification of said figures, the
13 Comptroller is hereby authorized and directed to transfer money from the General Fund to each
14 state university, community college and University of Massachusetts campus in an amount equal
15 to its foregone tuition and fee revenues. The total revenues reimbursed as part of the pilot
16 program shall serve as the base funding level to cover the annual cost of senior citizen tuition
17 and fee waivers in the General Appropriations Act beginning in Fiscal Year 2027.