

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4406

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, August 28, 2025.

The committee on Higher Education, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1425) of Simon Cataldo, Francisco E. Paulino and Mindy Domb relative to higher education admissions; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1452) of Michael J. Moran relative to the consideration of familial relationships to graduates in applications to higher education institutions, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4406) ought to pass.

For the committee,

DAVID M. ROGERS.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4406**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act banning legacy and donor preferences in higher education.

*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  
4 higher education shall not consider the applicant’s familial relationship to a person who attends  
5 or attended the institution or such applicant’s familial relationship to any donor to such  
6 institution. A public institution of higher education shall not include in the documents that it uses  
7 to consider an applicant for admission information that discloses the name of any college or  
8 university that any relative of the applicant attended or made a donation to.

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

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

14 person who attends or attended the institution or such applicant's familial relationship to any  
15 donor to such institution. Such institution shall not include in the documents that it uses to  
16 consider an applicant for admission information that discloses the name of any college or  
17 university that any relative of the applicant attended or made a donation to.

18 SECTION 3. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall mean:

19 "Binding early decision admission policy", an admission policy of an institution of  
20 higher education that allows a student to apply at an earlier stage of the admissions process,  
21 receive an expedited admissions decision, and absent extenuating circumstances, requires the  
22 student to pledge to attend the institution upon receiving a decision of admittance.

23 "Institution of higher education", a public or private certificate- or degree-granting  
24 college, junior college or university, as authorized by the board of higher education pursuant to  
25 section 9 of chapter 15A.

26 The department of higher education shall review and make recommendations  
27 regarding the use of binding early decision admission policies in the commonwealth. The review  
28 shall include, but not be limited to, the number of institutions of higher education that maintain a  
29 binding early decision admission policy; the number of students who apply and are accepted  
30 under that policy; the impact of the policy on equity and diversity among enrolled students  
31 including diversity and representation among enrolled students of (i) students of various  
32 economic statuses, including students that receive a maximum federal Pell Grant, a less than  
33 maximum federal Pell Grant, and students that receive a federal subsidized Stafford Loan but not  
34 a federal Pell Grant; (ii) students of diverse racial and ethnic identities, including  
35 underrepresented and vulnerable groups, disaggregated by major racial and ethnic subgroup; and

36 (iii) immigrant and first-generation students. In preparing the review, the department shall  
37 consult with the Attorney General; the department of elementary and secondary education; the  
38 chairs of the Joint Committee on Higher Education; the Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil  
39 Rights, and Inclusion; the Advisory Council for the Advancement of Representation in  
40 Education and organizations concerned with equity and education in Massachusetts, including  
41 the Massachusetts Education Equity Partnership; the University of Massachusetts; the  
42 Massachusetts State Universities Council of Presidents; the Massachusetts Association of  
43 Community Colleges; the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of  
44 Massachusetts; and any other stakeholders that the department identifies.

45           The review and recommendations shall include analysis of the overall impact of  
46 binding early decision admissions policies and make recommendations to public and private  
47 institutions of higher education concerning their admissions policies. The review may also  
48 include recommendations to the General Court for legislation. The review and recommendations  
49 shall be published on the website of the department and submitted to the chairs of the joint  
50 committee on higher education and the joint committee on racial equity, civil rights, and  
51 inclusion no later than 1 year after the effective date of this act.

52           SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect for admission decisions that lead to  
53 an applicant's initial enrollment in a higher education institution in the 2026-2027 school year  
54 and thereafter.