

**SENATE . . . . . No. 935**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Edward J. Kennedy*

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*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 protecting students and increasing accountability at Massachusetts colleges and universities.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Edward J. Kennedy*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 935**

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By Mr. Kennedy, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 935) of Edward J. Kennedy for legislation to reform institutional eligibility requirements for state-based financial aid. Higher Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 830 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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An Act protecting students and increasing accountability at Massachusetts colleges and universities.

*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 16 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

3           No state scholarship funds under this section, any other section of this chapter, or other  
4 state student financial aid however provided, shall be made available to, or on behalf, of any  
5 student enrolled in any postsecondary educational institution which the board of Higher  
6 Education determines does not meet the requirements of this paragraph. To meet the  
7 requirements of this paragraph, a postsecondary educational institution shall demonstrate to the  
8 board that it has: (i) graduation rates of not less than 30 per cent for undergraduate students  
9 taking 150 per cent or less of the expected time to complete degree requirements, as most

10 recently reported by the U.S. Department of Higher Education, provided, that graduation rates  
11 shall include students who transfer; or (ii) an average 3 year cohort default rate that is not more  
12 than 20 per cent, as most recently reported by the U.S. Department of Education. The board of  
13 Higher Education shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this paragraph including,  
14 but not limited to, procedures and processes for annually determining which postsecondary  
15 educational institutions meet the requirements of this paragraph, and a process for an institution  
16 to appeal a determination that they do not meet the necessary requirements. The board of higher  
17 education shall annually post a list of institutions that meet the requirements of this paragraph on  
18 the Department of Higher Education's website.