

SENATE No. 567

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Benjamin B. Downing

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 student records coordination across public higher education institutions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Benjamin B. Downing

Berkshire, Hampshire, and Franklin

Stanley C. Rosenberg

Hampshire and Franklin

Michael O. Moore

SENATE No. 567

By Mr. Downing, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 567) of Benjamin B. Downing, Michael O. Moore and Stanley C. Rosenberg for legislation relative to student records coordination across public higher education institution [Joint Committee on Higher Education].

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven
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An Act relative to student records coordination across public higher education institutions.

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. Clause (s) of paragraph 1 of section 9 of chapter 15A of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 119, the
3 following words:- The council shall also engage in coordinated and collaborative research
4 projects with other state entities, including but not limited to the department of early education
5 and care, the department of elementary and secondary education, and the department of
6 workforce development, in order to support the development of policies that enhance successful
7 transitions from early childhood through entry into the workforce.

8 SECTION 2. Section 9 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
9 amended by inserting after clause (gg), at the end of the first paragraph, the following clause:-
10 ; (hh) subject to appropriation, build and maintain a centrally administered computer-
11 based transfer and degree auditing system providing individual students with clear and consistent
12 information on their progress toward fulfilling degree requirements in any undergraduate

13 program at any public institution of higher education; provided, however, that said system shall
14 include course-to-course equivalencies across institutions enabling students access to
15 information necessary for understanding how credits will transfer to another public institution of
16 higher education. The Council shall coordinate the implementation of said system and shall
17 ensure all public higher education institutions utilize the system for all undergraduate programs
18 and course offerings, including but not limited to courses offered through continuing education
19 programs, online courses, and courses supported by the commonwealth; provided, however, that
20 the council shall determine the form in which all data and course equivalencies shall be
21 submitted by the public institutions of higher education. The council shall also utilize the data in
22 the system to produce an annual report that highlights the number and types of transfer within the
23 system of public higher education, the number of students accessing said system, the progress of
24 students statewide towards degree completion, and other relevant research assessments as the
25 council may determine relevant to the careful and responsible discharge of its purposes.