

SENATE No. 585

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

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 establishing a commission on the funding needs for quality public higher education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin B. Downing</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>James T. Welch</i>	<i>Hampden</i>
<i>Gale D. Candaras</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Daniel A. Wolf</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>
<i>Kenneth J. Donnelly</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>
<i>John J. Binienda</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carlo Basile</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>

<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>Christine E. Canavan</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Joseph F. Wagner</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel B. Winslow</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>

Thomas P. Kennedy
Claire D. Cronin

Second Plymouth and Bristol
11th Plymouth

SENATE No. 585

By Mr. Michael O. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 585) of Michael O. Moore, Tom Sannicandro, Jennifer L. Flanagan, Michael R. Knapik and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a commission on the funding needs for quality public higher education. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act establishing a commission on the funding needs for quality public 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. It is hereby declared to be a paramount goal of the commonwealth to
2 provide a system of public higher education of high quality, sufficient in terms of programs,
3 access and funding to enable all residents of the commonwealth the opportunity to reach their
4 individual potential and to lead lives as full participants in the political and social life of the
5 commonwealth and as contributors to its economy.

6 It is therefore the intent of this legislation to establish a commission on the funding needs
7 for quality public higher education to undertake an investigation of the current state and funding
8 of the commonwealth’s system of public higher education and to make proposals to the
9 legislature for improvements in programs, staffing and funding needed to assure the achievement
10 of the aforesaid goal.

11 The mandate of the commission shall be to investigate and describe the current state of
12 public higher education and its funding, including but not limited to state appropriations, tuition
13 and fees and other sources of funding; to determine and describe the requirements for a system of
14 public higher education which will provide high quality post-secondary education that meets the
15 needs of students and of the commonwealth over the next 10 years; and to recommend to the
16 legislature proposals to strengthen and improve our public higher education system and a method
17 to assure the needed funding for a high quality system of public higher education.

18 The issues to be addressed by the commission shall include, but not be limited to, the
19 following:

20 1. Whether the programs currently offered by the system are adequate to assure that
21 students receive a high quality education that will meet their needs and those of the
22 commonwealth over the next 10 years;

23 2. Whether the current funding system provides fair and adequate funding for all public
24 higher education institutions to ensure that all students are offered a high quality education that
25 meets their needs and the needs of the commonwealth;

26 3. Whether the costs borne by students are fair and appropriate and assure access to
27 higher education for Massachusetts residents, and whether the state should provide a higher
28 amount and percentage of funding; and,

29 4. What specific measures are necessary to improve the quality of education being
30 delivered, including examining and making proposals concerning the following:

31 a) The use of adjunct or part-time faculty, as well as the pay, benefits,
32 responsibilities of, and support services provided to, adjunct faculty under the current system;

33 b) The number and use of full-time and tenure-track faculty across the system;

34 c) The ability of the current system to attract and retain highly qualified faculty and
35 staff; and,

36 d) The number of developmental students being served under the current system and
37 at which institutions, and the adequacy of academic and related support systems in place for both
38 the number and types of students served.

39 The members of the commission shall consist of the following: the house and senate
40 chairs of the joint committee on higher education, who shall serve as co-chairs; the speaker of
41 the house of representatives or a designee; the president of the senate or a designee; the minority
42 leader of the house of representatives or a designee; the minority leader of the senate or a
43 designee; the chair of the house committee on ways and means or a designee; the chair of the
44 senate committee on ways and means or a designee; the secretary of education; the commissioner
45 of higher education; the secretary of administration and finance or a designee; a representative of
46 the community college presidents as chosen by their presidents' council; a representative of the
47 state university presidents as chosen by their presidents' council; the president of the University
48 of Massachusetts; a representative of each of the following organizations, as chosen by the
49 respective organization: the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the American Federation of
50 Teachers-Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Community College Council, the Massachusetts
51 State College Association, the Massachusetts Society of Professors/Faculty Staff Union,
52 Massachusetts Society of Professors Lowell, UMass Lowell Classified/Tech Union, UMass
53 Lowell Grant and Contract Fund Employees, Professional Staff Union (Boston), Classified Staff
54 Union, Professional Staff Union (Amherst), University Staff Association and the Association of

55 Professional Administrators; the student representative on the board of higher education and the
56 student representative on the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees; and, no more than
57 three (3) members of the business community to be chosen by the governor to represent the
58 various industries and geographic regions of Massachusetts.

59 The commission shall conduct public hearings across the commonwealth at public higher
60 education institutions and at other accessible locations.

61 The University of Massachusetts and the board of higher education shall cooperate with
62 the commission in its work and shall provide the commission with any and all data concerning
63 programs and funding.