

**Joint Committee on Higher Education Bill
Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	S.920
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act ensuring tuition equity at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senator Comerford
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	-
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	New File

SUMMARY

The Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst hosts a unique associate degree (AS) program for students interested in pursuing a career or further education in agriculture. The Stockbridge School of Agriculture's AS degrees are distinctive, as they are the only Associate's degrees offered within the University system. When the Legislature passed free community college, also referred to as MassEducate, in the FY25 budget, Stockbridge's AS degrees were not included in the program. This bill expands MassEducate to include the AS program at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, providing tuition equity for students pursuing agricultural studies.

SECTION-BY-SECTION

Includes the associate degree program in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst within section 5B of chapter 15A (MassEducate), as inserted by Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024.