

HOUSE No. 1274

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 higher education tuition and fee waivers for seniors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Nicholas A. Boldyga</i>	<i>3rd Hampden</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Peter J. Durant</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1274

By Representative Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1274) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others relative to higher education tuition and fee waivers for seniors. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to higher education tuition and fee waivers for seniors.

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. There is hereby established a pilot reimbursement program for all public
2 institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth, including all state universities,
3 community colleges and University of Massachusetts campuses, providing tuition and fee
4 waivers for senior citizens age 60 and older pursuant to the provisions of section 19 of chapter
5 15A of the General Laws. Said tuition and fee waivers shall apply to qualifying seniors who are
6 enrolled in undergraduate programs, summer sessions, evening classes, or any specific higher
7 education courses or set of courses between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, but said enrollment
8 shall be subject to space availability and shall not exceed four courses per academic year. On or
9 before August 1, 2024, all state universities, community colleges and University of
10 Massachusetts campuses shall provide the state Comptroller, the House and Senate Ways and
11 Means Committees, and the Joint Committee on Higher Education with a detailed breakdown of
12 the tuition and fee revenues foregone as a result of said waivers. Upon receipt and certification of
13 said figures, the Comptroller is hereby authorized and directed to transfer money from the

14 General Fund to each state university, community college and University of Massachusetts
15 campus in an amount equal to its foregone tuition and fee revenues. The total revenues
16 reimbursed as part of the pilot program shall serve as the base funding level to cover the annual
17 cost of senior citizen tuition and fee waivers in the General Appropriations Act beginning in
18 Fiscal Year 2025.