

HOUSE No. 1354

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Moran, (BY REQUEST)

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 veteran tuition.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tim Wallis</i>	<i>158 Brayton Rd, Boston MA 02135</i>	<i>2/12/2021</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1354

By Mr. Moran of Boston (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1354) of Tim Wallis and Michelle M. DuBois relative to the Board of Higher Education creating a centralized system for connecting federal funding benefits for higher education and to further regulate tuition for veterans. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to veteran tuition.

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 45: VOCATIONAL TRAINING

2 Recognizing that traditional degree seeking programs and institutions are not a one size
3 fits all educational policy, the board of higher education shall include institutions that provide
4 vocational training in its scope of administration as higher education. Vocational training
5 includes training for occupations that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 6 1. Any occupation that requires a license regardless of any classroom instructional
7 requirements.
- 8 2. Any occupation that requires an apprenticeship.
- 9 3. Any occupation that is primarily organized with union representation.

10 4. Any occupation that requires either a written or practical assessment under state
11 or federal laws.

12 5. Any occupation that requires being bonded and/or insured.

13 SECTION 46: EASY ACCESS PROVISION

14 The Board of Higher Education shall be tasked with the creation of a centralized state-
15 wide system for connecting federal funding benefits for individuals with state-wide institutions
16 of higher education. This includes the planning and funding of programs that allow for the
17 choice and approval of an educational program rather than individual class selection and
18 approval.

19 The Board of Higher Education shall develop a “one-stop” higher educational access
20 portal. This should be a publicly available and secure online portal for individuals to be able to
21 access all educational and occupational training resources.

22 SECTION 47: VETERAN TUITION POLICY

23 For the purposes of paying tuition, the Board of Higher education shall consider the
24 following veteran statuses as in-state residents, regardless of actual domicile:

25 Any individual that has been discharged from a branch of the armed forces with one of
26 the following discharge classifications:

27 1. Honorable discharged.

28 2. General discharge under honorable conditions.

29 3. Other than honorable discharge.

30 Any dependent that has been transferred GI Bill benefits from a parent that was in the
31 armed forces shall be considered an in-state resident.