

HOUSE No. 02107

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act creating a special commission on college scholarships.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

14th Norfolk

Sean Garballey

23rd Middlesex

HOUSE No. 02107

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2107) of Garballey and Peisch relative to the creation of a special commission on college scholarships Joint Committee on Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 4940 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act creating a special commission on college scholarships.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 There shall be a special commission to investigate and study the need to incentivize the
2 commonwealth’s college scholarship system. The commission shall consist of: the speaker of the
3 house of representatives, or a designee; the president of the senate, or a designee; the minority
4 leader of the house of representative, or a designee; the minority leader of the senate, or a
5 designee; the house chair of the joint committee on higher education, or a designee; the senate
6 chair of the joint committee on higher education, or a designee; the secretary of education, or a
7 designee; the commissioner of higher education, or a designee; the executive director of the
8 Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority, or a designee; and 6 persons appointed by the
9 governor 1 of whom shall be a representative from the University of Massachusetts, 1 of whom

10 shall be a representative from the state universities, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the
11 community colleges, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Association of Independent
12 Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the
13 Massachusetts Bankers Association, and 1 of whom shall be a representative from Families
14 United in Educational Leadership.

15 The special commission shall make an investigation and study of the scholarship programs
16 that provide financial assistance to Massachusetts students enrolled in or pursuing a program of
17 higher education at any approved public or independent college, university, school of nursing, or
18 any other approved institution furnishing a program of higher education, and shall focus on
19 students with little or no family history of college attendance. Said study shall examine methods
20 that have been used in the commonwealth and other states to better prepare these students for
21 college. The study shall include, but need not be limited to: the examination of voluntary college
22 savings programs focused on the needs of said families; the possible use of federally matched
23 independent development accounts; the impact of committing scholarship funds to students prior
24 to the twelfth grade; the need for a pilot program for ninth through twelfth grade students in up to
25 5 public school districts to encourage family engagement and student academic achievement
26 through the use of scholarships in conjunction with family savings for college; and potential
27 additional funding sources for a college savings matching program with priority placed on
28 financial matches that have no additional cost to the commonwealth.

29 The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study, and
30 its recommendations, if any, with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives who shall
31 forward the same to the joint committee on higher education and the senate and house
32 committees on ways and means not later than December 31, 2011.