

HOUSE No. 489

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jessica Ann Giannino

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 COVID-19 relief for college students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/10/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 489

By Ms. Giannino of Revere, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 489) of Jessica Ann Giannino relative to COVID-19 relief for college students. Covid-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to COVID-19 relief for college students.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which are to establish forthwith financial welfare, housing security and discrimination protection for college students during the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. (a) The department of transitional assistance shall establish a COVID-19
2 financial welfare program for undergraduate college students over the age of 18 attending public
3 and private institutions of higher education in the commonwealth. The program shall provide
4 eligible students \$500 to ensure a stable financial situation during the COVID-19 emergency.

5 (b) The department of transitional assistance shall promulgate regulations to implement
6 this section.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The department of housing and community development shall establish
8 a COVID-19 housing program to ensure secure housing for all college students regardless of
9 race, religion, gender or sexual orientation during the COVID-19 emergency. The program shall

10 provide rent assistance and rent forgiveness for undergraduate college students over the age of 18
11 attending public and private of higher education institutions in the commonwealth.

12 (b) The department of housing and community development shall promulgate regulations
13 to implement this section.

14 SECTION 3. The executive office of public safety and security shall establish a task
15 force to defend and protect Asian-American college students from hate crimes and
16 discrimination. The task for shall work with municipal, college and university police departments
17 to develop best practices for preventing hate crimes against Asian-American college students.

18 SECTION 4. Sections 1 to 3, inclusive, shall expire 180 days after the COVID-19
19 emergency declaration has been lifted.