

SENATE No. 602

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anthony D. Galluccio

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 establishing a healthy child scholarship.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Anthony D. Galluccio

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Middlesex, Suffolk and Essex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HEALTHY CHILD SCHOLARSHIP.

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

1 Whereas, Governor Deval Patrick and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services have
2 announced a comprehensive plan called Mass in Motion to promote healthier lifestyles and
3 combat overweight and obesity in the Commonwealth; and

4 Whereas, one of the programs established through Mass in Motion will mandate Body Mass
5 Index (BMI) testing of students attending public schools in the Commonwealth; and

6 Whereas, one-third of middle and high school students in the Commonwealth are reportedly
7 overweight or obese; and

8 Whereas, being overweight or obesity increases the risk of developing serious medical
9 conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, certain forms of cancer, and stroke; and

10 Whereas, those with serious medical conditions place greater demands on the health care system
11 and increase costs; and

12 Whereas, healthy lifestyles can begin during adolescence; and

13 Whereas, it is in the interest of the Commonwealth to contain rising health care costs and
14 encourage our students to exercise and eat healthy;

15 Therefore, be it enacted, as follows:

16 SECTION 1.

17 Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended
18 by inserting after section 16 the following section:-

19 Section 16A. Healthy Child Scholarship

20 The board of higher education, in consultation with the department of public health, shall
21 establish a “Healthy Child Scholarship.” The board shall adopt guidelines governing the
22 implementation of the scholarship, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

23 (1) the scholarship shall be awarded to tenth grade students attending public schools in the
24 Commonwealth who are within an acceptable BMI range or who have improved their BMI since
25 the test was last administered in middle school, provided in both instances that BMI testing is
26 administered at the school;

27 (2) the amount of the scholarship shall not be less than \$100 and shall not be presented publicly
28 by any state or local authority or official;

29 (3) the scholarship shall be presented by the board on behalf of the governor and the legislature,
30 but under no circumstances shall the scholarship funds shall be distributed until the student
31 verifies enrollment in an undergraduate or associate degree program at a state institution of
32 higher learning. The board shall make each recipient aware of the guidelines of the scholarship
33 program.

34 (4) the board shall document the name and contact information of each scholarship recipient and
35 shall make reasonable efforts to notify recipients during their senior year of high school of the
36 scholarship funds they have been awarded and the eligibility for receiving such funds.

37 The board and the department of public health shall promulgate such regulations and other
38 written guidance as needed to implement and administer the scholarship.