

SENATE No. 821

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Lydia Edwards

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 banning legacy preferences in higher education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Lydia Edwards

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Third Suffolk

SENATE No. 821

By Ms. Edwards, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 821) of Lydia Edwards for legislation to ban legacy preferences in higher education. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act banning legacy preferences in higher education.

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

1 An Act banning legacy preferences in higher education

2 SECTION 1. Section 9 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
3 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the fourth paragraph the following:

4 For purposes of this paragraph, a public higher education institution shall mean a school
5 in the University of Massachusetts segment or in the state university segment of the system of
6 public institutions of higher education established in section 5 of chapter 15A. When deciding
7 whether to grant admission to an applicant, a public higher education institution shall not
8 consider the applicant’s familial relationship to a graduate of the institution. A public higher
9 education institution shall not include in the documents that it uses to consider an applicant for
10 admission information that discloses the name of any college or university that any relative of
11 the applicant attended.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,
13 is hereby amended by inserting after section 30A the following:

14 Section 30B. When deciding whether to grant admission to an applicant, a degree-
15 granting institution of higher education located in the commonwealth authorized to grant degrees
16 by the board of higher education shall not consider the applicant's familial relationship to a
17 graduate of the institution. Such institution shall not include in the documents that it uses to
18 consider an applicant for admission information that discloses the name of any college or
19 university that any relative of the applicant attended.

20 SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect for admission decisions that lead to an
21 applicant's initial enrollment in a public higher education institution in the 2024-2025 school
22 year.