



**New England Board of Higher Education
Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting
Long Wharf Marriott Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts
Friday, March 4, 2016**

**Legislative Lunch Discussion: What Works in Your State & What Doesn't?
Bills Submitted in 2016 Legislative Sessions**

(LAC Bill Sponsors Noted in Italics)

Connecticut

Raised Senate Bill No. 23

CONNECTICUT'S MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE

Requires a study of issues by the Connecticut Board of Regents concerning Connecticut's manufacturing and technology workforce with a report due by January 1, 2017 to the Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

Raised Senate Bill No. 24

(Rep. Willis)

PROGRAM APPROVAL FOR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Exempts academic programs of certain Connecticut independent institutions of higher education from approval by the Office of Higher Education.

Raised Senate Bill No. 25

SPECIAL POLICE FORCES ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Permits the establishment of a special police force at each of the regional community-technical colleges, subject to the approval of the Board of Regents.

Raised House Bill No. 5071

REQUIRING CONNECTICUT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT REGARDING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

Requires participation in the nationwide state authorization reciprocity agreement (SARA).

Raised Senate Bill No. 147

ASSISTING STUDENTS WITHOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS WITH THE COST OF COLLEGE

Beginning in the fall of 2016, any student classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes, shall be eligible to apply for and receive institutional financial assistance to attend a public college or university.

Maine

LD 215

(Sen. Langley, Sen. Millett)

IMPROVING STUDENT RETENTION IN MAINE'S POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Directs Jobs for Maine's Graduates, a state-authorized nonprofit corporation, to provide mentoring and counseling services, course guidance and graduation planning, peer support services and financial guidance to students at postsecondary institutions in the state for the purpose of significantly increasing the percentage of eligible students who obtain a postsecondary degree. Eligible students must have previously been enrolled in a Jobs for Maine's Graduates high school program, been in or currently be in foster care or have earned a high school equivalency diploma within the 5 years prior to obtaining these services.

LD 1033

RESOLVE TO ASSIST THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM AND THE MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TO REDUCE THE NEED FOR REMEDIAL EDUCATION

Proposes to require the Department of Education to analyze data from public and private secondary schools for the last three academic years regarding the number of students needing remedial education at the postsecondary level and the graduation rates of those students. The department is required to determine what methods are used by those schools with high graduation rates among students requiring remedial education and determine how to use those methods in other schools with lower graduation rates. This resolve provides \$1,000,000, disbursed by the Department, to assist schools with low rates of graduation among its remedial education students to adopt methods of increasing the graduation rates of those students.

LD 1370

(Sen. Millett, Rep. Daughtry, Rep. Pouliot)

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS

Proposes to improve teacher quality in the state by amending the current statutes related to programs involving teacher preparation, support systems for provisional teachers, teacher certification, teacher salaries and college loans for students enrolled in a program of study leading to certification as a teacher. The bill includes the following provisions:

1. Expands the student teaching experience and specifies an academic achievement level necessary for applicants to qualify for a provisional teaching certificate.
2. Strengthens the support systems required to provide assistance for provisional teachers during each year of their probationary period.
3. Directs the Commissioner of Education to pay salary supplements to classroom teachers who are involved in the operation of a school administrative unit's support system approved in accordance with the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Section 13015.
4. Provides that an individual who has not completed a master's degree program and who is issued a teacher certificate in accordance with Title 20-A, Chapter 502 on or after July 1, 2015 may not receive a renewed certificate or a new teaching certificate unless the individual completes a master's degree program within five years of being employed as a teacher in the state.
5. Increases the minimum salaries for certified teachers to \$40,000 beginning in the 2016-17 school year and includes state funding for the incremental costs of meeting this minimum as part of the school funding formula.
6. Requires the Department of Education to increase the qualifying scores for the standardized qualifying examinations for applicants for initial teacher certification in its Rule Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators no later than July 1, 2016.

Massachusetts

Sexual Assault on Campus

S. 650

SEXUAL ASSAULT CLIMATE SURVEY FOR MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Creates a sexual assault climate survey for Massachusetts colleges and universities with the goal of determining the prevalence and perceptions of sexual assault on college campuses.

S. 679, H. 1041

(Sen. Moore, Rep. Sannicandro)

CONCERNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION CAMPUSES

Proposes changes to policies and procedures regarding sexual assault, stalking or intimate partner violence of students and employees of institutions.

H. 3249

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CAMPUS SAFETY

Establishes a Massachusetts assault review board to provide an impartial point of view regarding public universities and college's assault prevention and response proceedings.

Paying for College

S. 651, H. 1057

REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE COSTS OF THE "LEARNING CONTRACT"

Provides that the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts, in conjunction with the University of Massachusetts Medical School, shall develop and implement provisions for payback in "Learning Contracts" entered into by students admitted for the academic year commencing in 2015 and for every year thereafter, which shall require payback service, so-called, of at least four years within the Commonwealth in areas of primary care, public or community service, or underserved areas, as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health and the Learning Contract Committee, in coordination with the area health education center and state and regional health planning agencies. The Commonwealth, not the Medical School, shall bear the cost of these Learning Contracts.

S. 655, H. 1063

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING AND FUNDING A UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Establishes a commission to study the feasibility of creating, structuring, managing, marketing, and funding a universal college savings account program, the purpose of which shall be to promote higher education and financial literacy access among low and moderate income families.

S. 664, H. 1067

(Rep. Sannicandro)

CREATING A COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM FOR EVERY CHILD BORN IN MASSACHUSETTS

Establishes a children's savings program to expand educational opportunity and financial capability for every child born in the commonwealth, administered by the Massachusetts Education Financing Authority.

S. 662

REFORMING INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Requires a postsecondary educational institution to demonstrate to the Board of Higher Education that it has: (a) graduation rates of not less than 30% for undergraduate students taking 150% or less of the expected time to complete degree requirements, as most recently reported by the U.S. Department of Higher Education, provided, that graduation rates shall include students who transfer; or (b) an average 3 year cohort default rate that is not more than 20%, as most recently reported by the U.S. Department of Education.

S. 665, H. 1060

(Rep. Sannicandro)

EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN AREAS OF NEED

Establishes a licensed certified social worker student education loan repayment pilot program, hereinafter referred to as the pilot program, for the purpose of increasing and retaining access to child welfare services and social services in the Commonwealth.

[S. 675](#)

(Sen. Moore)

OPEN TEXTBOOKS

Establishes and administer the Massachusetts Open Source Digital Library, in coordination with the Massachusetts Open Education Resources Council and the 3 segments of the public higher education system, for the purpose of housing open source materials while providing an Internet Web-based way for students, faculty, and staff to easily find, adopt, utilize, or modify course materials for little or no cost.

[S. 678, H. 3955](#)

(Sen. Moore)

STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

- Provides for adequate funding for the public higher education system necessary to maintain quality higher education.
- Creates a transfer system, including a core of courses for common credit toward degrees and certificates along with course-to-course equivalencies that will enable students to transfer from one public higher education institution to another without loss of credit
- Requires public higher education institutions to provide uniform financial aid information to every student that has been accepted prior to deadline for enrollment. Each institution shall use the financial aid shopping sheet or other standardized document provided by the U.S. Department of Education, post a list and description of all scholarships, grants, or other funds that do not have to be paid back that are available annually on its website. Each institution shall inform students about any income-based loan repayment programs and public interest or other loan forgiveness programs available for student borrowers. In addition, all public institutions of higher education in the state shall work with American Student Assistance through its SALT program or other programs and the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) to provide financial literacy for students attending these institutions.
- Establishes a Partnership to Advance Collaboration and Efficiency (PACE). The purpose of PACE shall be to foster collaborations that promote operational efficiencies, cost savings, increased productivity, and increase and enhance high quality higher education opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth at the public institutions of higher education.

[S. 680](#)

(Rep. Sannicandro)

PROMOTING HIGHER EDUCATION AMONG EMPLOYEES OF HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS

Establishes a program of tuition remission pursuant to which persons employed by providers of social services programs that hold contracts with the commonwealth, and spouses of those persons, are provided tuition remission benefits for courses or programs taken at any public community college or state college or the University of Massachusetts.

[S. 654, S. 666, H. 1061](#)

(Rep. Sannicandro)

TUITION EQUITY FOR IN-STATE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Expands student eligibility for state financial aid, in-state tuition at public institutions, etc. to all students who attended high school in the Commonwealth for 3 or more years and graduated from a high school in the Commonwealth, given some conditions.

[H. 1054, H. 1053](#)

IN-STATE TUITION FAIRNESS

Restricts student eligibility for state financial aid, in-state tuition at public institutions, etc. to U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

[H. 1043](#)

(Sen. Moore)

TUITION AND FEES FOR VETERANS

Provides tuition and fee waivers for combat veterans and the children of combat veterans who were killed during service. The Commonwealth, not the institutions of public higher education, shall bear the cost of such tuition and fee waivers.

[H. 1056](#)

LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS SERVING UNDERSERVED RURAL COMMUNITIES

Establishes a student loan repayment program for the purpose of attracting practicing health care professionals to rural communities in Massachusetts by providing financial assistance for the repayment of qualified education loans.

[H. 1070](#)

(Sen. Moore, Rep. Sannicandro)

FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Provides that no tuition or mandatory curriculum fees shall be charged to any resident of the state at any community college. The Commonwealth, not the community colleges, shall bear the cost.

[H. 1076](#)

(Sen. Moore)

COMMISSION TO STUDY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS

Establishes a special commission to investigate and study the college textbook industry, including the costs of purchasing textbooks and study materials, offering a choice of lower cost texts, the effective use of E-textbooks, reviewing changes in editions and the cost savings related to maintaining a current edition over purchasing the most recent edition, encouraging colleges to implement comprehensive and controlled buy-back and book swap programs to reduce costs for students, providing incentives to those schools that offer such programs and expanding the information available to purchasers of textbooks so that faculty and students alike are provided with a complete view of all available textbooks for comparison purposes.

College Completion

[S. 673](#)

(Rep. Sannicandro)

IMPROVING GRADUATION RATES IN PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Provides for the development and administration of a policy that requires all public institutions of higher education to provide flexibility in graduation requirements for students diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, who are enrolled in credit bearing classes with the intent of earning a degree.

[S. 683, H. 1042](#)

A FINISH LINE GRANT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE COLLEGE COMPLETION

Establishes a Finish Line Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to cover the entire cost of tuition and fees for one year other than the first, in a program leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree at a Massachusetts public college or university. The scholarships will be available to residents of the Commonwealth in need of financial assistance whose family income is less than the median family income in Massachusetts.

[S. 685](#)

PERFORMANCE-BASED EDUCATION FUNDING

Proposes change to current funding such that not less than 25% of any sums appropriated by the general court for the maintenance, operation and support of each state university and community college shall be based on performance criteria developed by the Secretary of Education, which shall include but not be limited to, the retention and successful completion of courses of study, as evidenced by graduation, certification or other similar documentation, and rates or measures of the academic achievement of students.

Students with Disabilities

[S. 672, H. 4040](#)

(Sen. Moore, Rep. Sannicandro)

HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Public institutions of higher education shall offer inclusive opportunities to support individuals with severe intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, or other developmental disabilities who are seeking to gain academic, career and technical, and independent living skills in order to prepare for adult life including but not limited to gainful employment and civic engagement.

[H. 1065](#), [S. 671](#), [H. 1038](#)

(Rep. Sannicandro)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO FURTHER THE STUDY OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Establishes a scholarship fund, which would award two scholarships each year to students who are studying in areas related to developmental disabilities: one to a student at the graduate school of social work at Salem State University and one to a student at the University of Massachusetts Medical School at Worcester. Each scholarship shall be funded by the scholarship fund and shall cover the total cost of tuition and fees required to obtain a degree.

Supporting Research at Universities

[H. 1072](#)

FURTHERING COMMERCIALIZATION AND JOB CREATION THROUGH INNOVATION AT RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Establishes an innovation commercialization seed fund to provide initial investments to researchers and students at the University of Massachusetts and certain other research universities.

[H. 1073](#)

ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS HIGHER EDUCATION MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM

Establishes a higher education matching grants program to provide funding to public institutions of higher education to meet the matching contribution requirements as specified by the awarding federal agency, foundation, or other non-state funding entity. The purpose of the program is to: (1) expand access and availability of federal and corporate research funding for both basic and applied research at public institutions of higher education; (2) enable faculty and staff to successfully compete for external funding and to increase their research capabilities; (3) improve the research capabilities of public institutions of higher education; and (4) provide a vehicle for faculty and staff to meet required matching contribution requirements and be eligible for available competitive grant funds.

Other

[H. 3426](#)

STUDY OF ADVERTISING AND LENDING PRACTICES OF FOR-PROFIT SCHOOLS

Establishes a special commission to study and investigate the advertising and lending practices of for-profit schools doing business in the Commonwealth, resulting in recommendations for legislation aimed at protecting consumers from predatory lending and misleading advertising practices of for-profit schools.

[S. 2099](#)

(Sen. Moore, Rep. Sannicandro)

BREAKING GENERATIONAL CYCLES OF POVERTY

Establishes the TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund to assist families with dependent children in earning a community college certificate or two-year associate's degree; also establishes education opportunity coordinator positions at community colleges.

New Hampshire

SB 326

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Adds a member to the Community College System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees who is also an employee of the Community College System of New Hampshire. The bill also limits Trustees to 2 consecutive terms.

SB 314

(Sen. Stiles, Rep. Gile)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Provides that two members to be appointed to the higher education commission by the governor and council, on recommendation by the American Council for Professional Education and Training, who shall be residents of the state and shall represent private postsecondary career schools.

SB 408

(Sen. D'Allesandro, Rep. Gile)

FUNDING FOR THE CHILDREN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM

Makes an appropriation of \$50,000 to the children's savings account (CSA) program to establish pilot programs in Coos County and the city of Manchester.

HB 1371

(Sen. Stiles, Rep. Balcom)

COMMITTEE TO STUDY EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR FAMILIES OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Establishes a committee to study education savings accounts (ESAs) for families of special needs students.

HB 1274

(Rep. Gile)

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE EFFICACY OF CHANGES IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Establishes a committee to study the efficacy of changes in the Community College System of New Hampshire's academic programs, financial management, and administrative operations. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2016.

HB 1431

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

Establishes academic freedom and whistleblower protection for faculty members of the University System of New Hampshire and the Community College System of New Hampshire.

Rhode Island

SB 2017

THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

Requires the Board of Education to adopt a competency-based/proficiency-based learning policy whereby elementary and secondary students can earn credits through demonstration of competency and be approved by June 2017.

SB 2392

(Sen. Gallo, Sen. Metts)

THE PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE FUNDING ACT OF 2016

Adds a performance-based component to the state funding formulas for Rhode Island public institutions of higher education.

SB 2393

(Sen. DiPalma)

FEES FOR STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES – VETERANS

Authorizes state-run higher education institutions to waive application and transcript fees for veterans.

SB 2455

DUAL ENROLLMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

Provides that school districts would not be responsible to pay the costs associated with a student's attendance at a post-secondary institution pursuant to a dual enrollment program.

HB 7049

(Rep. McNamara)

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Permits students with necessary educational background to participate in career and technical internships.

HB 7081

(Rep. McNamara)

THE STUDENT LOAN BILL OF RIGHTS

Authorizes the creation of the Student Loan Ombudsman within the Division of Higher Education Assistance. The Ombudsman's duties would be to assist student loan borrowers with issues pertaining to their loans.

HB 7221

(Rep. McNamara)

THE COMPLETE COLLEGE RHODE ISLAND ACT

For the purposes of creating a comprehensive compilation of data showing academic progress among students and develop strategies to increase the number of students graduating from state institutions of higher education.

HB 7370

(Rep. Hearn)

STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

Authorizes Rhode Island Student Loan Authority to refinance loans and invest in its own bonds.

HB 7426

(Rep. McNamara)

THE RHODE ISLAND EDUCATION EQUITY ACT

Authorizes the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a research-based model full-time preschool pilot program for children age three (3) years of age, focusing on low-income families and children that are English language learners. The purpose of the program would be to eliminate the education achievement gap that current exists for this population entering kindergarten.

HB 7584

DUAL ENROLLMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

Extends the benefits of the Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act to cover home-schooled students.

HB 7081

(Rep. McNamara)

THE STUDENT LOAN BILL OF RIGHTS

Authorizes the creation of the Student Loan Ombudsman within the Division of Higher Education Assistance. The Ombudsman's duties would be to assist student loan borrowers with issues pertaining to their loans.

Vermont

H. 423, S. 142

PORTABILITY OF VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Require that the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation award grants and scholarships solely for use at the Vermont State Colleges, at the University of Vermont, or at educational institutions in states that have executed a reciprocity agreement with Vermont.

H. 449

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD

Establishes a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College or a Vermont State College for active-duty members of the Vermont National Guard.

H. 745

(Rep. Jerman)

A STUDY OF CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Directs the Agency of Education to study and report on career technical education programming and funding.

H. 832

ATTRACTING AND RETAINING VERMONT'S NEXT GENERATION.

Proposes to create a National Guard Educational Assistance Program, expand awareness of the Reach Up postsecondary education program and to enhance the training of Reach Up caseworkers, creates a Higher Education Cost and Opportunities Study Committee, create a Path to Reentry Study Committee, minimize the cost of textbooks, exempt textbooks from the Vermont sales tax, create an income tax deduction for tuition payments and student loans, and create a tax credit for apprenticeship training.

S. 118

REMEDIAL EDUCATION FOR POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS

Requires the Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont to report on students identified for remedial education and to require the Agency of Education, in collaboration with these institutions, to create a plan for lowering postsecondary remediation rates among Vermont's high school graduates.

S. 177

THE FUNDING OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

Proposes to increase funding of the Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund by directing any estate tax surplus that is more than 100 percent.

S. 178

PROPORTIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

Provides for the appropriation of funds to the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges from the Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund on a proportional basis, based on the percentage of Vermont students in attendance at each institution.

S. 179

THE USE OF VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Require that the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation award grants and scholarships primarily for use at any Vermont college or university; provided, however, that if there is no postsecondary education institution within 50 miles of a Vermont student's residence in the State of Vermont, then the funds may be used outside the State if there is a non-Vermont postsecondary education institution within that 50-mile radius.

S. 180

INCREASING GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TO THE VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

Increases the annual General Fund appropriation to the Vermont State Colleges by the percentage increase in total prior year General Fund spending and the current year General Fund spending, plus the FY 2015 Vermont State College General Fund appropriation, adjusted by the most recent New England Economic Project Cumulative Price Index.