



**NEW ENGLAND STATE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Bills Filed During Current Legislative Session**

Last updated: March 12, 2019

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Connecticut General Assembly

Proposed H.B. No. 5001

(Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)

AN ACT ENSURING THAT STUDENTS IN THIS STATE RECEIVE HIGH-QUALITY SKILLS TRAINING

To ensure that students in this state receive high-quality skills training in order to achieve well-paying careers in the state.

Status: Public Hearing on February 5, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 5044

(Rep. Christie M. Carpino)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF COURSE CREDITS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

To allow students to transfer credits for similar courses between institutions within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on Jan. 9, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 5113

(Rep. Holly Cheeseman)

AN ACT REQUIRING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A POLICY REGARDING FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS

To require institutions of higher education to establish a policy regarding free speech on campus.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on Jan. 10, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 5207

(Rep. Gail Lavielle)

AN ACT ELIMINATING THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

To eliminate the Board of Regents for Higher Education.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 11, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 5615

(Rep. Gail Lavielle)

AN ACT CONCERNING A REPORT ON THE STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To require a report detailing the standards and policies concerning the admission of students at institutions or campuses within the jurisdiction of the Connecticut State University System and The University of Connecticut.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 18, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 5831

(Rep. Doug Dubitsky)

AN ACT CONCERNING A REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

To review the programs and services administered or provided by the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 23, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 5833

(Rep. Kara Rochelle)

AN ACT EXPANDING ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS AT REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES

To increase accessibility to advanced manufacturing certificate programs and meet industry demand for skilled workforce.

Status: Vote to Draft on February 9, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 5834

(Rep. Rosa Rebimbas)

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES AND CONSOLIDATION

To allow for lower interest rates and consolidation of student loans.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 23, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 5836

(Rep. Noreen S. Kokoruda, Rep. Vincent J. Candelora)

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO TITLE IX ON STUDENTS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE

To study the impact of the changes proposed by the United States Department of Education to Title IX of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1972.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 23, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 6072

(Rep. J.P Sredzinski)

AN ACT PROVIDING RESOURCES TO CERTAIN STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To provide funding and other resources for students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics-related fields at public institutions of higher education.

Status: Public Hearing on February 14, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 6472

(Rep. Gary Turco)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR GRADUATES OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE

To establish a personal income tax credit for graduates with a bachelor's or associate degree from a public or independent nonprofit institution of higher education who live in the state.

Status: Public Hearing on February 14, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 6474

(Rep. Gail Lavielle, Rep. Terrie Wood)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MERGER OR CLOSURE OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

To prohibit the merger or closure of institutions within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities without the review and approval of the General Assembly.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 28, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 6883

(Rep. Christopher Rosario, Rep. Andre Baker)

AN ACT CONCERNING A "CORRECTIONS TO COLLEGE" PIPELINE FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS

To create a "Corrections to College" pipeline program for youthful offenders reentering the community.

Status: Public Hearing on February 14, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 6887

(Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)

AN ACT CONCERNING APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH-GROWTH, HIGH-DEMAND JOBS

To establish a task force to identify high-growth, high-demand jobs and analyze the implementation and creation of partnerships that provide apprenticeship opportunities for such jobs.

Status: Public Hearing on March 5, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 6888

(Rep. Terrie Wood, Rep. Gail Lavielle)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MERGER OR CLOSURE OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

To prohibit the merger or closure of institutions within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities without the review and approval of the General Assembly.

Status: Public Hearing on February 21, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 6889

(Rep. Caroline Simmons)

AN ACT PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SUBSIDIES FOR STUDENTS STUDYING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, VIRTUAL REALITY, AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES OR QUANTUM COMPUTING

To provide subsidies to students studying in fields related to emerging technologies if such students work in the state upon graduation.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 30, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 6891

(Rep. Gregory Haddad, Rep. Mae Flexer)

AN ACT CONCERNING A DEDUCTION FROM THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX FOR STUDENT LOAN INTEREST

To provide tax relief to persons paying student loan interest by establishing a deduction from the personal income tax for student loan interest.

Status: Public Hearing on February 14, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7011

(Rep. Caroline Simmons)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS THAT PROVIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB TRAINING

To encourage businesses to invest in job training to help close the skills gap and prepare workers for unfilled jobs in Connecticut.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Commerce on January 31, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7028

(Rep. Anne Dauphinais)

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FROM MERGING INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

To prohibit the merger of institutions within the regional community-technical college system.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 31, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7088

(Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)

AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAM APPROVAL AT INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To allow independent institutions of higher education to be exempt from the requirement to apply to the Office of Higher Education for approval of new or modified programs.

Status: Public Hearing on February 14, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7089 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING AND EXPANSION OF CERTAIN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

To provide a means of additional funding for advanced manufacturing certificate programs that have a high graduate employment rate.

Status: Filed with Legislative Commissioners' Office on March 1, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7089 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING AND EXPANSION OF CERTAIN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

To provide a means of additional funding for advanced manufacturing certificate programs that have a high graduate employment rate.

Status: Filed with Legislative Commissioners' Office on March 1, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7120 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING THE CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS OR CAMPUSES WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to establish a plan, receive public comment and seek the approval of the General Assembly prior to closing any institutions or campuses within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.

Status: Public Hearing on February 21, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7162 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

To establish an open educational resource program to help lower the cost of textbooks and course materials at institutions of higher education.

Status: Public Hearing on March 5, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7253 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS OPERATED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF THE STATE

To allow out-of-state institutions of higher education that do not participate in a nation-wide, state authorization reciprocity agreement to apply to the Office of Higher Education to operate a distance learning program in the state.

Status: Public Hearing on March 5, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7254 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
**AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY BY THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION REGARDING GRADUATE
EMPLOYMENT RATES**

To require a study by the Office of Higher Education regarding graduate employment rates.

Status: Public Hearing on March 5, 2019

Proposed H.B. No. 7254 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING FOOD-INSECURE STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To collect data and review policies regarding food-insecure students at public institutions of higher education.

Status: Public Hearing on March 5, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 273 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING DEBT-FREE COLLEGE

To enable in-state recent high school graduates enrolled in regional community-technical colleges to graduate without student loans and to implement a program to encourage residents to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Status: Public Hearing on February 28, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 274 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM

To require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish the Learn Here, Live Here program to help graduates of any institution of higher education or certain certificate programs of private occupational schools save toward a down payment on their first home in the state by segregating a portion of their state income tax payments for up to ten years after they graduate.

Status: Public Hearing on February 28, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 275 (Sen. Kevin Kelly)
**AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION RELATED TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY**

To ensure that public institutions of higher education are meeting the workforce needs of the insurance industry.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 31, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 435 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS MAKING EDUCATION LOAN PAYMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES

To provide a tax credit for employers that make education loan payments for employees.

Status: Public Hearing on February 28, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 449 (Sen. Will Haskell)
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR BUSINESSES THAT OFFER STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT TO GRADUATES OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS IN THE STATE

To establish a tax credit for businesses that provide student loan repayment assistance to graduates of institutions of higher education and private occupational schools in the state.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 23, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 607 (Sen. James Maroney)
AN ACT CONCERNING APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAYS TO EARNING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

To establish a non-traditional pathway to earning a bachelor's degree, which incorporates apprenticeships.

Status: Public Hearing on February 14, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 735 (Sen. Heather Somers)
AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT TEACHES CERTAIN SKILLS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PROMOTES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To engage young adults and teach them vital skills in workforce development.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Education on February 29, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 747 (Sen. James Maroney)
AN ACT ALLOWING A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE AND BUSINESSES THAT OFFER FREE COLLEGE

To allow partnerships between Charter Oak State College and businesses that offer free college to their employees.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 29, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 748 (Sen. Matt Lesser)
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO FUND TUITION-FREE AND DEBT-FREE PROGRAMS OF STUDY AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To establish a pilot program for tuition-free college.

Status: Reserved for Subject Matter Public Hearing on January 31, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 749 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER OR CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

To require legislative approval for the merger or closing of institutions within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.

Status: Public Hearing on February 21, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 790 (Rep. Dennis Bradley)
AN ACT CONCERNING A FREE COLLEGE PROGRAM

To establish a free college program.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on January 29, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 799 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to study issues relating to workforce development in the state.

Status: Public Hearing on February 5, 2019

Proposed S.B. No. 865 (Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING NO OR LOW INTEREST STUDENT LOANS FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS

To establish the STEM Loan Subsidy Program to provide persons employed in science, technology, engineering or math fields with no or low interest student loans.

Status: Public Hearing on February 28, 2019

Maine State Legislature

H.P. 121

(Rep. Ryan Fecteau)

AN ACT TO EXTEND THE REFUNDABILITY OF THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT TO STUDENTS IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FIELD

This bill makes changes to the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program administered by the Department of Labor (DOL), including: (1) It requires that the DOL's outreach efforts regarding the program focus on unemployed/underemployed workers, veterans, immigrants, recipients of benefits under the statewide food supplement program, low-skilled manufacturing workers, and students enrolled in postsecondary education. (2) It directs the DOL to collaborate with other entities to improve program outreach to target demographics, including collaboration with the Maine Community College System (MCCS). (3) It makes changes to the criteria used to determine approved education and training under the program, including consideration of employer input, changing demographics and traditional industries in the State in which innovations and new technologies are creating a demand for skilled workers. (4) It requires that a program participant be given information about the allowable uses of a family development. (5) It adds a requirement that a participant be offered comprehensive career planning services prior to the program's development of an individual career plan. It directs the department to include in this partnership the MCCS with respect to participants enrolled or seeking enrollment in a training or education course provided by the MCCS. It also directs the MCCS to assist the DOL in program management and oversight for such participants. (6) It repeals the Jan. 1, 2020 repeal provision on the eligibility for the program of a full-time student at a public secondary school enrolled in a career and technical education program at a career and technical education center or a career and technical education region. This bill also amends the laws governing the employment of minors 16 and 17 years of age, providing that such a minor may be employed in an otherwise hazardous occupation for which the minor has been trained or certified from a vocational, career and technical or cooperative education program approved by the Department of Education only if the minor has graduated from the program and has graduated from high school.

Status: Introduced January 17, 2019

H.P. 275

(Rep. Pinny Beebe-Center)

AN ACT TO EXTEND THE REFUNDABILITY OF THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT TO STUDENTS IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FIELD

Provides that students receiving bachelor's degrees or associate degrees in a behavioral health field are entitled to a refundable income tax credit for certain education loans in the same manner as students receiving degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Status: Introduced January 24, 2019

H.P. 345

(Rep. Mattie Daughtry)

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE AFFORDABILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Provides additional funding to the Maine State Grant Program in the 2020- 2021 biennium. It requires the Finance Authority of Maine to expand the Maine State Grant Program to enable more low-income residents to attend an institution of higher education in Maine. It also requires the Finance Authority of Maine and the Department of Health and Human Services to jointly examine ways to maximize the delivery of federally funded support services to postsecondary students.

Status: Introduced January 29, 2019

H.P. 452

(Rep. Mattie Daughtry)

AN ACT TO FACILITATE THE PURCHASE OF TEXTBOOKS FOR LOW-INCOME COLLEGE STUDENTS

Amends the Maine State Grant Program, a grant program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine to award grants to Maine residents who are students at postsecondary institutions of higher education in this State based on financial need. Under the program, the minimum grant is \$1,000 per year. This bill allows the authority, using the same need and residency criteria as for the grants, to award up to an additional \$500 grant for textbooks per year.

Status: Introduced February 5, 2019

H.P. 468

(Rep. Kristin Cloutier)

AN ACT TO ATTRACT, EDUCATE AND RETAIN NEW STATE RESIDENTS TO STRENGTHEN THE WORKFORCE

Creates programs to provide education, services and training for the State's workforce immigrant populations: (1) Establishes the Welcome Center Initiative to operate welcome centers in adult education programs to provide education, services and training for foreign-trained workers in municipalities or regions of the State that have immigrant populations or that have industries that are experiencing a shortage of trained workers, patterned after the New Mainers Resource Center operated by the City of Portland adult education program. (2) It directs the Department of Education's (DOE) office of adult education and family literacy to: A. Administer a vocation-specific English language acquisition and workforce training program for immigrants in the State and establish a statewide competitive grant process to carry out the purposes of the program; B. Establish and implement a local community planning support program to provide a planning process for communities to provide English language acquisition and training in vocational skills, identify employers or areas that would benefit from immigrant residency or employment and cultivate community support to integrate immigrants into the communities and local workforce. The office must establish a 1 grant process to carry out the purposes of the program; and C. Develop and implement a grant process to award grants to adult education programs to increase English language acquisition instruction. (3) It directs the DOE to establish a welcome center under the Welcome Center Initiative within the City of Lewiston's adult education program to attract, educate and retain in employment foreign-trained workers, patterned after the New Mainers Resource Center in Portland, and provides funding for that purpose.

Status: Referred To The Committee On Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement And Business On February 26, 2019

H.P. 523

(Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross)

AN ACT TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR ADULT BASIC LITERACY, WORKPLACE EDUCATION AND COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS

This bill provides an increase in funding for the adult education subsidy to local school units that operate adult education programs. It also provides targeted funds to improve the capacity of local adult education programs to meet students' academic and work readiness and training needs.

Status: Introduced February 11, 2019

H.P. 538

(Rep. John Schenk)

AN ACT TO PROMOTE KEEPING WORKERS IN MAINE

Would prohibit an employer from requiring or entering into a non-compete agreement with an employee earning wages that are at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. If an employer requires a non-compete agreement for a position of employment, the employer must disclose that requirement in any advertisement for that position, and an employer must provide an employee or prospective employee with a copy of a non-compete agreement at least 3 business days before requiring that employee or prospective employee to sign the agreement. An employer that violates this law commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$5,000 may be adjudged. The bill would also prohibit a restrictive employment agreement between 2 or more employers that prohibits or restricts one employer from soliciting or hiring another employer's employees or former employees.

Status: Introduced February 11, 2019

H.P. 574

(Rep. Denise Tepler)

RESOLVE, TO DIRECT THE COMMISSIONER OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY CREDENTIALING SKILLED INDIVIDUALS WITH FOREIGN CREDENTIALS

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to create a working group to study credentialing skilled individuals with foreign credentials in the State. The working group consists of 8 to 10 members representing licensing boards and professional organizations served by the licensing boards in professions for which there is a need for and an opportunity to credential skilled individuals with foreign credentials. The working group is required to submit its report along with any recommendations and suggested legislation to the Governor and the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation. The commissioner is required to submit the report with any recommendations and suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. The committee is permitted to report out a bill relating to the subject matter of the report to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

Status: Introduced February 12, 2019

H.P. 587

(Rep. Erik Jorgensen)

AN ACT TO INCREASE FACULTY IN NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

This bill amends the nursing education loan repayment program as follows: (1) It extends eligibility to apply to individuals who are currently enrolled in master's or doctoral degree programs; (2) It specifies that applicants must indicate an intention to work as full-time nursing faculty in a nursing education program in the State, and increases the required commitment from 3 to 5 years after acceptance into the nursing education loan repayment program; (3) It increases the maximum amount of loans eligible for repayment under the program from \$4,500 to \$30,000 for a master's degree, and from \$6,000 to \$60,000 for a doctoral degree.

Status: Introduced February 12, 2019

H.P. 646

(Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio)

AN ACT TO FORGIVE EDUCATION DEBT FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK IN THE STATE

This bill creates the Health Care Professional Education Loan Repayment Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine to repay the education debt of certain health care professionals who agree to live and work in the State for a minimum of 5 years. Under the program, the authority will pay 20% of the education debt or \$25,000, whichever is lower, for each year of participation in the program up to a total of \$125,000 for a health care professional who is not employed in a federally designated health professional shortage area and 20% of the education debt or \$30,000, whichever is lower, for each year of participation in the program up to a total of \$150,000 for a health care professional who is employed in a federally designated health professional shortage area. The program is contingent on funding from the proceeds from the renewal of the contract for the operations of the State's wholesale spirits business.

Status: Introduced February 19, 2019

H.P. 766

(Rep. Norman Higgins)

RESOLVE, ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE CREATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM TO SUPPORT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (EMERGENCY)

This resolve establishes the Task Force To Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System to examine the feasibility of establishing a comprehensive 4-year high school career and technical education program to provide a technical high school setting for middle school students to attend at the completion of the 8th grade.

Status: Introduced February 28, 2019

S.P. 30

(Sen. Eloise Vitelli)

AN ACT TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

This bill requires annual review of for-profit colleges by the State Board of Education to ensure that they are meeting adequate educational standards. If the board finds that a for-profit college is not meeting the standards, the board may terminate the degree-granting authority of the for-profit college.

Status: In Senate, January 15, 2019

S.P. 36

(Sen. Nate Libby)

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A GENERAL FUND BOND ISSUE TO PROVIDE STUDENT DEBT FORGIVENESS TO SUPPORT WORKFORCE ATTRACTION AND RETENTION

This legislation would protect Mainers from predatory student loan practices. It would create a “Student Loan Bill of Rights,” a statute that makes several changes within the Maine Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection (BCCP). The current amended version of the bill does 3 things: (1) it creates a registration procedure for loan services, which requires they submit an application to the Superintendent Maine BCCP for approval, (2) it identifies prohibited acts, including misleading student loan borrowers and fraud, and requires loan servicers comply with federal law, and (3) it allows the Superintendent to investigate student loan servicers to ensure compliance with the law.

Status: In Senate, January 17, 2019

S.P. 48

(Sen. David Woodsome)

AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

This bill proposes to enact measures designed to increase access to career and technical education.

Status: In Senate, January 17, 2019

S.P. 249

(Sen. Justin Chenette)

RESOLVE, TO ENCOURAGE RELOCATION OF WORKING PROFESSIONALS

This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to design and implement a one-year pilot program to encourage remote workers to relocate to Maine. The pilot program, the New Remote Worker Grant Program, will award grants of up to \$2,500 per qualifying individual and up to \$125,000 in total funds for qualifying expenses. The resolve directs the department to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic advancement and business matters and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor and housing matters and gives these committees authority to report out legislation based on the department's report.

Status: In Senate, February 14, 2019

S.P. 250

(Sen. Erin Herbig)

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN MAINE'S ECONOMY THROUGH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION LED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM

This bill would provide funding and enact measures based on recommendations of the President of the University of Maine at Machias in a strategic plan chartered by the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and due to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System in March 2019. The bill would strengthen research and economic development efforts across the University of Maine System to support Maine industries and workforce development and to foster business formation and expansion, specifically in the research and development sectors designated in statute: advanced technology for agriculture and forestry; aquaculture and marine technology; biotechnology; composite materials technology; environmental technology; information 4 technology; and precision manufacturing technology.

Status: In Senate, January 14, 2019

S.P. 256

(Sen. Lisa Keim)

AN ACT TO EXPAND WORKFORCE ACCESS BY CREATING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO LICENSURE IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS

This bill proposes to enact the Expanded Workforce Access Act of 2019, which will authorize the use of apprenticeships as an alternative means of obtaining licenses to perform certain occupations. Occupations included under this Act may include, but are not limited to, barbering or limited barbering and nail technology. This bill will expand access to the workforce by allowing individuals to fulfill licensing requirements through participation in apprenticeship programs, thus allowing participants to earn a paycheck at the same time as they acquire hands-on training and experience.

Status: In Senate, January 19, 2019

S.P. 285

(Sen. Eloise Vitelli)

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STUDENT LOAN BILL OF RIGHTS TO LICENSE AND REGULATE STUDENT LOAN SERVICERS

This bill: (1) Requires a General Fund bond obligation in the amount of \$250,000,000 for a program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine to provide funds for payment of student loan debt for individuals who agree to live and work in Maine for 5 years and to reimburse employers that make student loan debt payments on behalf of their employees who agree to live and work in Maine for 5 years; and (2) Establishes the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Program and the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Fund and requires the Finance Authority of Maine to adopt major substantive rules to implement the program and submit the rules to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Status: In Senate, January 17, 2019

Massachusetts General Assembly

Proposed Bill HD.43

(Office of the State Treasurer)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO STUDENT DEBT

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the University of Massachusetts, in consultation with the office of the state treasurer and the department of higher education, shall develop a pilot program on a single campus that provides enrolled students with an estimate of their total outstanding or pending student loan obligations.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.384

(Rep. Bradley Jones, Jr.)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO A LOAN FORGIVENESS TASK FORCE

There shall be a special task force to review and report on the economic impact of loan forgiveness programs to ensure that college graduates stay, work, and build businesses in Massachusetts.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.438

(Rep. Peter Durant)

AN ACT PROMOTING STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

The department shall establish an advisory committee to consist of 11 members, including 2 Massachusetts community college or state university professors who teach financial literacy or personal finance, to be appointed by the commissioner of higher education. To equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to become self-supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding personal finances, the department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize and assist in the implementation of curriculum on personal financial literacy. The components of personal financial literacy covered in the curriculum include the following: understanding loans, borrowing money, interest, credit card debt, and online commerce, etc.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.481

(Rep. Natalie Higgins)

AN ACT TO FUND A MORE AFFORDABLE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN MASSACHUSETTS

There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a fund to be known as the Education Fund.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.740

(Rep. Sonia Chang-Diaz)

AN ACT PROVIDING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Any person admitted to such public institutions of higher education, other than a nonimmigrant alien within the meaning of paragraph 15 of subsection (a)(A) through (S) of 8 U.S.C., section 1101 of the federal act, who has attended high school in the commonwealth for 3 or more years and has graduated from a high school in the commonwealth or attained the equivalent thereof in the commonwealth, shall be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates and fees, and shall be eligible on the same terms as other persons for state-funded financial assistance, at the University of Massachusetts, or any other state university or state college or community college in the commonwealth.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.744

(Rep. James Eldridge)

AN ACT TO GUARANTEE DEBT-FREE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

To create a grant program to pay the equivalent of tuition and mandatory fees to an eligible student at any Massachusetts public college or university, or certificate, vocational, or training program at a public institution, up to the equivalent of four years of public college or university.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1060

(Rep. David Muradian)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDENT LOAN BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION 1. Section 24 of chapter 93 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the definition of “servicing” and inserting thereof the following definition: “Servicing”, receiving a scheduled periodic payment from a borrower pursuant to the terms of a loan, including amounts for escrow accounts, and making the payments to the owner of the loan or other third party of principal and interest and other payments with respect to the amounts received from the borrower as may be required pursuant to the terms of the servicing loan document or servicing contract. In the case of a home equity conversion mortgage or reverse mortgage as referenced in this section, servicing includes making payments to the borrower. In the case of a student education loan as referenced in this section, servicing includes applying the payments of principal and interest and other such payments with respect to the amounts received from a student loan borrower as may be required pursuant to the terms of a student education loan and performing other administrative services with respect to a student education loan.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Financial Services on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1210

(Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO STUDENT DEBT

The University of Massachusetts, in consultation with the office of the state treasurer and the department of higher education, shall develop a pilot program on a single campus that provides enrolled students with an estimate of their total outstanding or pending student loan obligations.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1212

(Rep. Sean Garballey)

AN ACT IMPROVING GRADUATION RATES AT PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Section 9 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after subsection (gg), the following subsection: (hh) develop and administer a policy requiring all public institutions of higher education to provide flexibility in graduation requirements for students who have one or more diagnosed and documented intellectual or developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, and are enrolled in credit-bearing classes with the intent of earning a degree.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1213

(Rep. Sean Garballey)

AN ACT CREATING A CHILD SAVINGS PROGRAM

The Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority shall establish a college savings program known as the Massachusetts Child Savings Account Program. (1) The Massachusetts Education Financing Authority shall create a college savings account for each eligible child born and issued a birth certificate in the commonwealth. (2) Upon establishment of a college savings account, the commonwealth shall deposit \$250 into the account.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1216

(Rep. Carmen Gentile)

AN ACT MAKING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS FREE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE STATE

Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, no tuition or mandatory curriculum fees shall be charged to any resident of the state at any community college listed in section 5. The commonwealth, not the community colleges, shall bear the cost of providing free community colleges for residents of the state.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1227

(Rep. Marc Lombardo)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO INSTATE TUITION

Section 9 of chapter 15A of the General Laws is amended by adding: Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of determining eligibility for in-state tuition rates and fees at public institutions of higher education, for an individual who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. as defined under federal immigration law, the individual shall not be eligible for in-state tuition.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1230

(Rep. Paul Mark)

RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS FROM MASSACHUSETTS HAVE ACCESS TO DEBT-FREE HIGHER EDUCATION AT PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Proposed bill: 1. Ensures all students have access to debt-free higher education, defined to mean having no debt upon graduation from any public institutions of higher education; 2. Supports efforts that increase support to States so States can increase investments in higher education and bring down costs for students; 3. Increases aid to students to help them cover the total cost of college attendance without taking on debt; 4. Encourages innovation by States and institutions of higher education to increase efficiency, lower costs, and enable speedy and less-costly degree completion; and 5. Reduces the burden of existing student loan debt.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1242

(Rep. Alan Silvia)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO COLLEGE TUITION AND ADMISSIONS

Chapter 69 of the General Laws is amended by adding: In making decisions relating to admissions, scholarships and grants, any college, university, community college or junior college within the system of public institutions of higher education as set forth in section 5 of chapter 15A, shall identify and give priority to students or prospective students residing in the commonwealth: (1) whose biological parents are deceased or had their parental rights terminated due to abuse or neglect; and (2) who have been legally adopted by a blood relative within the third level of consanguinity or were assigned a permanent legal guardian by a court.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1247

(Rep. Andres Vargas, Rep. Dylan Fernandes)

AN ACT REQUIRING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE UNIFORM FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION TO ACCEPTED APPLICANTS

An institution of higher education shall provide each accepted applicant with a uniform financial aid information shopping sheet to assist the accepted applicant with the applicant's decision to enroll in the institution of higher education.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1248

(Rep. John Velis)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF PROGRAMS

The Massachusetts General Court shall initiate a commission to study and draft policies to ease the burden of student loan debt on citizens on the Commonwealth.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.1249

(Rep. Thomas Walsh)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE THE COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY IMPROVING THE UTILIZATION OF DIGITAL LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

Resolved, that a special commission is hereby established to review and study the feasibility of improving the utilization of digital learning technology in institutions of higher education in order to reduce the cost of course materials , textbooks and other costs of higher education.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.2450

(Rep. Peter Durant)

AN ACT PROMOTING STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

Any business that provides student loan payment assistance to a qualified employee or directly to the holder of the employee's qualified education loan shall be allowed a credit against the tax liability imposed by this chapter in an amount equal to 100 per cent of the student loan assistance paid; provided however, that a credit under this section shall not exceed \$4,500 dollars per qualified employee in any tax year.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Revenue on January 22, 2019

Proposed Bill HD.3383

(Rep. Paul Mark)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO NEUTRAL INVESTIGATIONS AT PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

All institutions of higher education shall promote an environment free of sexual harassment for their students.

Status: Referred to the Committee on The Judiciary on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.210

(Sen. Eric Lesser)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS FUTURE OF WORK COMMISSION

There shall be a special commission called the Massachusetts Future of Work Commission established to conduct a comprehensive study relative to the impact automation, artificial intelligence, global trade, access to new forms of data, and the internet of things are having on the commonwealth's workforce, businesses, and economy, with the main objective of said commission being to ensure sustainable jobs, fair benefits and workplace safety standards for all workers in all industries, including, but not limited to,

access to adequate and affordable health insurance, financial security in retirement, unemployment insurance, and disability insurance.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.740

(Sen. Joanne Comerford)

AN ACT COMMITTING TO HIGHER EDUCATION THE RESOURCES TO INSURE A STRONG AND HEALTHY PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM (C.H.E.R.I.S.H. ACT)

To assure fair and adequate funding for the commonwealth's public institutions of higher education (HEIs) by assuring that the appropriation to fund such institutions equals the level of funding in effect in fiscal year 2001, adjusted for inflation, and maintained, at a minimum, at that level thereafter. Beginning in fiscal year 2020, the council would restore the level of funding of public HEIs and needs based financial assistance to no less than the total per student appropriation for fiscal year 2001, adjusted for inflation to the current fiscal year.

Status: Referred to the Joint Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.747

(Sen. Adam Hinds)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO DISCIPLINARY NOTATIONS ON COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS

Each institution of higher education shall adopt policies on academic transcript notations and appeals relating to crimes of violence, including, but not limited to, sexual violence, that shall be made publicly available by publishing the policy on an institution's website and by annually providing a copy of said policies to students, faculty and staff.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.750

(Sen. Edward Kennedy)

AN ACT PROTECTING STUDENTS AND INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY AT MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Each institution of higher education shall adopt policies on academic transcript notations and appeals relating to crimes of violence, including, but not limited to, sexual violence, that shall be made publicly available by publishing the policy on an institution's website and by annually providing a copy of said policies to students, faculty and staff.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.751

(Sen. Edward Kennedy)

AN ACT INVESTING IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

Section 2 (e) of Chapter 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended in line 117 by inserting after the word “hours” the following: - “; or a faculty member who teaches the equivalent of at least two three or more- credit courses per semester, or four three or more- credit courses per calendar year at one or more of the public institutions of higher education in the state, as set forth in Section 5 of Chapter 15A, including a division of continuing education, regardless of funding source, including but not limited to subsidiary account CC, and regardless of the term of employment or participation or membership in a retirement system or plan; provided, that the commonwealth, not the public higher education institutions, shall bear the cost.”

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.756

(Sen. Joan Lovely)

AN ACT CREATING HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, AUTISM, AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

To provide inclusive educational opportunities for individuals with severe intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorders and other severe developmental disabilities to improve academic achievement, develop employment and independent living skills.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.757

(Sen. Joan Lovely)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS HUNGER PILOT PROGRAM

To establish a fund to address food insecurity on community college campuses that shall be known as the Massachusetts Community College Campus Hunger Program.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.759

(Sen. Michael O. Moore)

AN ACT PROTECTING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT INFORMATION

No state scholarship funds under this section, any other section of this chapter, or other state student financial aid, shall be made available to, or on behalf, of any student enrolled in any postsecondary educational institution which the board of Higher Education determines does not meet the requirements of this paragraph. To meet the requirements of this paragraph, a postsecondary educational institution shall demonstrate to the board that it has: (i) 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. Dept. of Higher Education, provided, that graduation rates shall include students who transfer; or (ii) an average 3 year cohort default rate that is not more than 20%, as most recently reported by the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.760

(Sen. Michael O. Moore)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS

There shall be a Massachusetts Early College Education Program, administered jointly by the commissioner of the department of higher education and the commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education, to help increase postsecondary education participation and completion. The program shall consist of partnerships among public secondary institutions and institutions of higher education in the commonwealth designated as Massachusetts Early College Schools by the commissioners.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.761

(Sen. Michael O. Moore)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO TRANSPARENCY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Any institution of higher education with power to grant degrees and located in the commonwealth which enters into discussions or written agreements to: (i) close; (ii) merge with another institution of higher education; (iii) acquire the facilities, resources or land of another institution of higher education; or (iv) to open a branch campus or additional instructional location on purchased or leased property shall provide the board of higher education with reasonable notice no less than 120 days in advance of the intended closure, merger, acquisition or opening. Notice shall not be a public record and shall be exempt from disclosure under clause Twenty sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 or section 10 of chapter 66.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.767

(Sen. Marc Pacheco)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO UMASS TAX CREDIT

SECTION 1. Section 1B of Chapter 75 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding at the end of subsection (f) the following words:- "The value of the tuition credit shall be adjusted annually to ensure the value of said credit is worth no less than 12.5 % of the total student charges for the academic year."

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.770

(Sen. Walter Timilty)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE THE COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY IMPROVING THE UTILIZATION OF DIGITAL LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

Resolved, that a special commission is hereby established to review and study the feasibility of improving the utilization of digital learning technology in institutions of higher education in order to reduce the cost of course materials, textbooks and other costs of higher education.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.772

(Sen. Dean Tran)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VETERANS

Any individual admitted to such public institutions of higher education who qualifies as a veteran, as defined in clause forty-third of section 7 of chapter 4, shall be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates and fees at the University of Massachusetts or any state or community college or university, immediately upon establishing residency in the Commonwealth.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.1471

(Sen. Michael Brady)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PART-TIME HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY ELIGIBILITY IN THE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

For faculty employed at one or more state higher education institution, the Board, in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall allow credit for any previous period of service equivalent to teaching at least four three- credit courses per calendar year at one or more state higher education institution, including a division of continuing education, regardless of funding source, including but not limited to subsidiary account CC.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Public Service on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.1547

(Sen. Patricia Jehlen)

AN ACT TO ENSURE FAIR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION WORKPLACES

Any faculty who teach the equivalent of at least two three credit courses per semester or four three or more- credit courses per calendar year at one or more of the public institutions of higher education, including a division of continuing education, regardless of funding source, including but not limited to subsidiary account CC, shall be considered an employee eligible for membership in the state employees retirement system and shall earn creditable service for such time.

Status: Referred to Committee on Public Service on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.1689

(Sen. Edward Kennedy)

AN ACT ENCOURAGING EMPLOYER STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

In determining the net income subject to tax under this chapter, a business corporation shall be allowed a deduction of an amount equal to the principal payments on education debts paid by the business corporation on behalf of an employee who is a resident of the commonwealth; provided however, that the deduction taken for payments on education debts paid on behalf of any individual employee shall not exceed \$2,000.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.1699

(Sen. Eric Lesser)

An Act promoting access to higher education beginning at birth

In order to encourage every child in Massachusetts to seek higher education and to encourage residents of Massachusetts to stay in the commonwealth, there shall be established and set on the books of the commonwealth a program for investment by the commonwealth in the future college education of all newly born residents.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.1724

(Sen. Michael O. Moore)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE TUITION TAX DEDUCTION

An amount equal to 50 per cent of the cost of tuition payments made by the taxpayer to a public institution of higher education, as defined by section 5 of chapter 15A, in which the taxpayer or a dependent of said taxpayer is enrolled, less any scholarships, grants or financial aid received. No deduction shall be allowed under this subparagraph if a deduction is claimed under subparagraph (11).

Status: Referred to Committee on Revenue on January 22, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill SD.2183

(Governor Charles D. Baker)

AN ACT TO SUPPORT IMPROVED FINANCIAL STABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Emergency Preamble:

Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to address the financial stability of institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Any institution of higher education with the power to grant degrees in the commonwealth that has any known liabilities or risks which may result in the imminent closure of the institution or jeopardize the institution's ability to fulfill its obligations to current and admitted students shall (a) notify the board of higher education of such known liabilities or risks; and (b) prepare and submit to said board, for its approval, a contingency closure plan which shall include a process for providing enrolled and admitted students and staff with timely notification of the institution's financial condition, accreditation status, and any outstanding compliance issues regarding federal student aid programs; arrangements for enabling students to complete their programs of study; and a plan for the transfer and long-term maintenance of student records in the event that the institution ceases to exist.

Status: Referred to Committee on Higher Education on March 7, 2019

New Hampshire General Court

Proposed Bill HB 356

(Rep. Rick Ladd)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE RETENTION OF CERTAIN REPORTS BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

This bill requires institutions of higher learning which have ceased instruction to retain certain records for 40 years.

Status: Ought to Pass on February 14, 2019

Proposed Bill HB 448

(Rep. Rick Ladd)

AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

This bill makes technical corrections within the department of education.

Status: ==RESCHEDULED== Executive Session for March 13, 2019

Proposed Bill HB 570

(Rep. Matt Wilhelm, Rep. Mary Heath, Sen. Dan Feltes, Sen. Jeb Bradley)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY CAREER PATHWAYS FROM FULL-TIME SERVICE YEAR PROGRAMS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPORT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS

This bill establishes a commission to study career pathways from full-time service year programs to postsecondary education and employment opportunities in support of New Hampshire's future workforce needs.

Status: Ought to Pass with Amendment on February 27, 2019

Proposed Bill SB 108

(Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, Sen. Jay Kahn)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ELIGIBILITY FOR THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This bill removes private postsecondary educational institutions from participation in the governor's scholarship program and inserts new definitions applicable to the program.

Status: Hearing on March 5, 2019

Proposed Bill SB 136

(Sen. Jay Kahn, Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, Rep. William Hatch, Rep. Carol McGuire)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS FOR TUITION PURPOSES IN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

This bill removes the rulemaking requirement for the adoption of criteria by the university system board of trustees governing the classification of students for tuition purposes.

Status: Ought to Pass on February 14, 2019

Proposed Bill SB 138

(Sen. David Starr, Rep. Robert Forsythe)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORITY OF SIGNUM UNIVERSITY

This bill authorizes Signum University to grant degrees in this state.

Status: Hearing on March 12, 2019

Proposed Bill SB 139

(Sen. Shannon Chandley, Sen. Martha Hennessey, Sen. Melanie Levesque, Rep. Megan Murray, Rep. David Luneau)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE TO STUDY OPTIONS FOR LOWERING STUDENT DEBT

This bill establishes a committee to study options for lowering student loan debt.

Status: Ought to Pass with Amendment on February 14, 2019

Proposed Bill 12-FN

(Sen. Jay Kahn, Sen. Dan Feltes, Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, Sen. Martha Hennessey, Jon Morgan, Sen. Donna Soucy, Sen. David Watters, Sen. Jeanne Dietsch, Sen. Shannon Chandley, Sen. Cindy Rosenwald, Sen. Melanie Levesque, Sen. Tom Sherman, Sen. Kevin Cavanaugh, Sen. David Luneau)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE GRADUATE RETENTION INCENTIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFORE

This bill establishes the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership (NH GRIP) which provides financial incentives to college graduates who are hired by participating employers and makes an appropriation to the department of business and economic affairs for that purpose.

Status: Ought to Pass on February 14, 2019

Proposed Bill 83-FN

(Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, Sen. Tom Sherman, Sen. Martha Hennessey, Sen. Melanie Levesque, Sen. Shannon Chandley)

AN ACT INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE NEW HAMPSHIRE INNOVATION RESEARCH CENTER AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION

This bill makes an appropriation to the New Hampshire innovation research center.

Status: Committee Report: Ought to Pass on March 14, 2019

Proposed Bill 268-FN

(Sen. Harold French)

AN ACT PROVIDING IN-STATE TUITION RATES AT ANY UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INSTITUTION FOR ANY PERSON REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE STATE

The board of trustees will provide the in-state undergraduate tuition rate at any institution in the university system of New Hampshire (USNH) for up to four years for any person who submits to the board satisfactory written proof that such person is registered to vote in this state. Proof of registration to vote must be submitted to the board prior to the beginning of each academic year. To address the revenue shortfall resulting from this bill, USNH states it would take one of the following actions: 1) increase tuition rates, 2) decrease institutional aid across the USNH's approximately 25,000 students, or 3) a combination of increasing tuition rates and decreasing institutional aid to students.

Status: Last hearing on February 7, 2019

Proposed Bill 270-FN

(Sen. David Watters (primary),
Sen. Jeb Bradley, Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, Sen. Bob Giuda, Sen. James Gray, Sen. Melanie Lavasque, Rep. Jon Morgan, Sen. Thomas Sherman, Rep. Barbara Shaw)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE BUSINESS PROFITS TAX FOR DONATIONS TO CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS

A school district may accept a charitable donation of up to 50% of the cost of (1) apprenticeship and training programs offered by the regional CTE center, and (2) the salary paid to interns, apprentices, and trainees enrolled in a CTE center program. School districts can also accept as a charitable donation tangible personal property for a related use by an educational program offered by the regional CTE center. The aggregate of tax credits issued by the department of education to all donors claiming the credit under is not to exceed \$500,000 for any state fiscal year.

Status: In Committee (Ways and Means, last hearing: February 20, 2019)

Proposed Bill 276-FN

(Sen. Jay Kahn, Sen. Cindy Rosenwald, Sen. Shannon Chandley, Sen. Tom Sherman, Sen. Martha Hennessey, Sen. Melanie Levesque, Sen. Kevin Cavanaugh, Sen. Dan Feltz, Rep. Rick Ladd, Rep. David Luneau, Rep. Tamara Le)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CAREER READINESS CREDENTIALS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

This bill defines certain terms related to career and technical education programs, creates ways for New Hampshire high school students to earn career ready credentials, adds to the reporting requirement of the advisory council on career and technical education, permits students in grade 10 to enroll in career and technical education courses, and makes an appropriation.

Status: Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment on February 21, 2019

Proposed Bill 327-FN

(Rep. Terry Wolf, Sen. David Watters)

AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TO CONTINUE THE MATH LEARNING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOLS

This bill appropriates funds to the community college system of New Hampshire to continue the math learning communities program in partnership with New Hampshire high schools.

Status: Executive Session on March 13, 2019

Proposed Bill 673-FN

(Rep. Glenn Cordelli, Rep. Joe Pitre, Rep. Chris True,
Rep. Kenneth Weyler, Rep. Peter Torosian, Rep. John
Potucek)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFORE

This bill allows eligible students to apply for a scholarship for the cost of taking exams for college credit in the college level examination program and makes an appropriation.

Status: Inexpedient to Legislate on February 27, 2019

Proposed Bill 689-FN

(Rep. Mary Heath, Rep. Patricia Cornell)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDENT CAREER AND COLLEGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFORE

This bill establishes a student career and college investment program which will be available to any student enrolled in a public school or chartered public school and who completes a financial literacy program in the second grade or later. The bill requires a portion of the registration fee for certain mutual funds to be transferred to the program fund.

Status: Ought to Pass with Amendment on February 27, 2019

Rhode Island General Assembly

Proposed Bill S-0018

(Sen. Hanna Gallo, Sen. Adam Satchell, Sen. James Sheehan, Sen. Valarie Lawson, Sen. Harold Metts)

SENATE RESOLUTION: RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER FORM A WORK GROUP TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH REVIEW INTO HOW RHODE ISLAND CAN PROTECT STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS

Requests that the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner form a work 18 group to conduct a thorough review into how Rhode Island can protect student loan borrowers 19 and to make recommendations on or before January 15, 2020, to the President of the Rhode LC000688 - Page 2 of 2 1 Island Senate and to the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives regarding student 2 loan protections.

Status: Introduced January 24, 2019

Proposed Bill S-0019

(Sen. Joshua Miller, Sen. Adam Satchell, Sen. Susan Sosnowski, Sen. Harold Metts, Sen. Gayle Goldin)

AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

This act would authorize and direct the council on postsecondary education to assess a transportation fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per semester to students attending a Rhode Island public institution of higher learning. The student identification cards issued to students assessed these fees would be modified to serve as a pass for services furnished and/or operated by the Rhode Island public transit authority.

Status: Introduced January 15, 2019

Proposed Bill S-0178

(Sen. Walter Felag, Sen. Leonida Raptakis, Sen. James Seveney, Sen. Frank Ciccone, Sen. Lou DiPalma)

AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - FEES FOR STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES - VETERANS

This act would authorize state higher education institutions to waive application and transcript fees for veterans.

Status: Introduced January 24, 2019

Proposed Bill S-0430

(Sen. Ana Quezada, Sen. Sam Bell, Sen. Harold Metts, Sen. Elizabeth Crowley, Sen. Bridget Valverde)

AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TUITION EQUITY

This act would create the "student equal economic opportunity act" which would allow students who meet certain requirements to be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at Rhode Island universities, colleges or community colleges.

Status: Introduced January 27, 2019

Vermont General Assembly

Proposed Bill H-325

(Rep. Barbara Rachelson)

AN ACT RELATING TO PROVIDING A DEDUCTION FOR INTEREST ON STUDENT LOANS

Taxation; personal income tax; student loan interest deduction Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide an income tax deduction for 100 percent of the interest paid on qualified student loans.

Status: Read and Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on February 21, 2019

Proposed Bill H-340

(Rep. Brian Savage)

AN ACT RELATING TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

This bill proposes to dissolve the State Board of Education and to transfer the Board's current authorities and duties to the Secretary of Education.

Status: Read and Referred to the Committee on Education on February 21, 2019

Proposed Bill H-374

(Rep. James Carroll)

AN ACT RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATIONAL LOAN BENEFIT PROGRAM FOR DOCTORS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, POLICE OFFICERS, NURSES, AND TEACHERS

This bill proposes to create the Workforce Development Educational Loan Benefit Program under which educational scholarships and student loan forgiveness shall be provided to individuals who work in a job as a doctor, physician assistant, police officer, nurse, or teacher in a location of the State identified by the Vermont Department of Labor that is underserved by these professions.

Status: Read and Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development on February 22, 2019

Proposed Bill S-38

(Sen. Anthony Pollina)

AN ACT RELATING TO THE CREATION OF A TUITION-FREE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR VERMONT STUDENTS

This bill proposes to create the Vermont Promise Scholarship Program to provide tuition-free scholarships for Vermont students who attend a Vermont State College.

Status: Read and Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development on January 18, 2019