



Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Boston, Massachusetts
Monday, March 26, 2018

New England State Legislative Sessions: Postsecondary Affordability and Workforce Pipelines

(LAC Bill Sponsors Noted in Italics)

Connecticut General Assembly

Proposed Senate Bill 49

(Sen. Flexer)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF FUNDING FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To provide adequate funding and support to Connecticut's public institutions of higher education in order to ensure their future growth and success.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement

Proposed Senate Bill 50

(Sen. Flexer)

AN ACT CONCERNING FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

To provide tuition-free community college for Connecticut residents.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement

Proposed Senate Bill 51

(Sen. Bye)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SMALL BUSINESS MANUFACTURING PIPELINE

To provide funding to schools and programs that will assist with the growth of industries and the workforce needs of small businesses.

Status: Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference Finance, Revenue and Bonding

Raised Senate Bill 142

(Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS BY THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To make permissive the requirement that executive directors of private occupational schools accept third-party institutional accreditation, and to establish a six-month deadline for the submission of an initial application for authorization for a private occupational school.

Status: Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis

Raised Senate Bill 213 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR APPRENTICESHIP AND WORK

To establish a quasi-public agency responsible for establishing public-private partnerships for apprenticeship and work-based opportunities.

Status: Joint Favorable Substitute

Raised Senate Bill 214 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSOLIDATION

To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to obtain accreditation prior to consolidating any institution of higher education under its jurisdiction.

Status: Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis

Raised Senate Bill 261 (Commerce Committee)
An Act Extending the Manufacturing Apprenticeship Tax Credit to Pass-Through Entities

To allow certain business entities to claim the manufacturing apprenticeship tax credit against the personal income tax.

Status: Public Hearing 3/8/18

Raised Senate Bill 352 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
AN ACT EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS OF INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To extend the sunset on the moratorium for private institutions of higher education to obtain the approval of the Office of Higher Education for new or modified programs.

Status: Joint Favorable Substitute

Raised Senate Bill 353 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
An Act Concerning the Creation of the Connecticut Hope Scholarship Program

To create a merit-based scholarship for in-state students to attend a public institution of higher education. The state, acting through the Office of Higher Education, shall establish the Connecticut Hope Scholarship program to annually make merit-based financial aid available for eligible educational costs for Connecticut residents enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at public institutions of higher education. The Connecticut Hope Scholarship shall be available to any Connecticut resident who graduated with an overall grade point average of at least 3.5 from a public high school in the state not more than four years prior to enrolling as a full-time undergraduate student at any public institution of higher education.

Status: Joint Favorable Substitute

Raised Senate Bill 354 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
An Act Concerning the Acceptance of Advanced Placement Course Credit at Public Institutions of Higher Education

To require public institutions of higher education to accept and award college credit for advanced placement course examination scores of four or greater.

Status: Public Hearing 3/8/18

Raised Senate Bill 441 (Commerce Committee)

An Act Concerning an Inventory of the State's Cybersecurity Job Training Pipeline

To require the Department of Economic and Community Development, in collaboration with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the Department of Education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and The University of Connecticut, to conduct an inventory of the educational resources available in the state to prepare students for careers in the cybersecurity field.

Status: Public Hearing 3/20/18

Raised Senate Bill 444 (Commerce Committee)

An Act Concerning Advanced Manufacturing Training and the Capital Needs of the Submarine Industry

To (1) provide funding for advanced manufacturing training programs administered by the regional workforce development boards; (2) make space available on the campus of Three Rivers Community College for plastics manufacturing training; and (3) require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to conduct a comprehensive review of the capital needs of the submarine industry every three years.

Status: Public Hearing 3/20/18

Raised Senate Bill 446 (Commerce Committee)

An Act Concerning a Strategic Plan for the Bioscience Sector in Connecticut

To require Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated and the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop a short and long-term strategic plan for the bioscience sector in Connecticut, along with a marketing and promotional plan to complement the strategic plan.

Status: Public Hearing 3/20/18

Raised House Bill 5030 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)

An Act Concerning Workforce Development

The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall conduct a study relating to workforce development issues in the state. Not later than May 20, 2018, the board shall submit a report of the results of such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Status: Public Hearing 2/13/18

Raised House Bill 5031 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)

An Act Equalizing Access to Student-Generated Financial Aid

To allow students to have equal access to institutional financial aid, regardless of immigration status.

Status: Joint Favorable Substitute

Raised House Bill 5037 (Governor's Bill)

An Act Establishing the Division of Postsecondary Education

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

Status: Public Hearing 2/27/18

Raised House Bill 5135 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
An Act Concerning Revisions to the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Program
To change the name of the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program to the Roberta B. Willis Tuition Assistance Program and to make other revisions to said program.

Status: Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis

Raised House Bill 5136 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Office of Higher Education
To make permissive the requirement that the Office of Higher Education develop a strategic plan to ensure racial and ethnic diversity at public institutions of higher education. For each institution, there shall be an approved plan, which shall include goals, programs and timetables for achieving those goals, and a procedure to monitor annually the results of these programs and a procedure to take corrective action if necessary.

Status: Joint Favorable Substitute

Raised House Bill 5281 (Commerce Committee)
An Act Concerning a Working Group to Study the Needs of Technology Companies and Software Developers in the State
To establish a working group to provide legislative recommendations to address the needs of technology companies and software developers.

Introduced by the Commerce Committee

Status: Public Hearing 3/8/18

Raised House Bill 5338 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
An Act Concerning the Funding and Expansion of Certain Certificate Programs
To provide a means of additional funding for those certificate programs that have a high employment rate for students in their field of study following graduation.

Status: Public Hearing 3/6/18

Raised House Bill 5371 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
An Act Establishing the Free 2 Start Scholarship Program and the Free 2 Finish Scholarship Program
To provide scholarships to students of low and moderate-income families that cover the unpaid portion of such students' tuition.

The state, acting through the Office of Higher Education, shall establish the Free 2 Start Scholarship program to annually make awards to qualifying students for eligible institutional costs. An award shall be available to a qualifying student for the first two academic years at a regional community-technical college, provided the qualifying student meets and continues to meet the requirements, including participating in a volunteer-based mentorship and counseling program.

The state, acting through the Office of Higher Education, shall establish the Free 2 Finish Scholarship program to annually make awards to qualifying students for eligible institutional costs. An award shall be available to a qualifying student during the final two semesters of the qualifying student's associate's degree or during the final four semesters of a qualifying student's bachelor's degree program, provided

the qualifying student meets and continues to meet the requirements, including participating in a volunteer-based mentorship and counseling program.

Status: Joint Favorable Substitute

Raised House Bill 5373 (Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee)
An Act Concerning Students in Crisis at Institutions of Higher Education

A public institution of higher education may establish a program to provide a one-time emergency expense grant to a student who experiences an unexpected financial hardship that impedes such student's ability to complete his or her degree. Such financial hardship may include, but need not be limited to, expenses relating to childcare, medical care or transportation expenses, but shall not include any educational expenses, such as tuition, fees, fines, parking or textbooks.

(b) Any student who is enrolled at a public institution of higher education that has established an emergency expense program under this section may apply to the institution for an emergency expense grant. An application for an emergency expense grant shall include (1) an explanation of the student's financial hardship, (2) documentation substantiating the student's emergency expenses, and (3) any other information the institution may require.

Status: Joint Favorable Substitute

Maine State Legislature

SP 231

(Sen. Katz)

AN ACT TO ADDRESS THE UNMET WORKFORCE NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS AND TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF WORKERS

This bill proposes to enact a comprehensive package of proposals designed to address the unmet workforce needs of employers and to improve the economic future of workers. These proposals may include, but are not limited to, proposals to: Identify workforce needs; Connect businesses with trained workers; Provide incentives for educational institutions receiving state training funds to place graduates into the employment or school of the graduates' choice; Design diverse programs to meet the needs of Maine employers; Prepare untrained workers to meet immediate and long-term needs; Allow military training to count towards required training for certain certifications and licenses; Identify educational programs necessary for specific types of employment and create a process to pre-employ prospective workers while they are being trained; Align Maine's system of learning results with technical skills for current employment needs, support technical courses in high schools and integrate those courses with the high school curriculum and identify for middle school and secondary school students career paths that include alternatives that do not require college educations.

Status: Reported Ought to Pass by the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

SP 521

(Sen. Katz)

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

This bill creates various programs to attract, educate and retain in the State's workforce immigrant populations in the following ways:

1. It creates the Office of New Mainers and the Office of New Mainers Advisory Committee to coordinate among various departments by developing a comprehensive plan to educate and train immigrant populations to fill needed positions of employers throughout the State;
2. It establishes the Welcome Center Initiative to operate welcome centers in adult education programs to attract, educate and retain in employment 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 Welcome Center operated by the City of Portland adult education program through a pilot program created by the 126th Legislature;
3. It establishes 3 grant programs to:
 - A. Contract with service providers to provide English-language instruction, vocational training and placement of immigrants in the State with employers of the State;
 - B. Assist counties, municipalities and school administrative units in managing new immigrant populations that have settled within the counties, municipalities and school administrative units or in attracting immigrant populations to address depopulation or workforce shortages within the counties, municipalities and school administrative units; and
 - C. Award grants to adult education programs to increase English-language acquisition instruction in communities experiencing an increase in immigrant populations; and
4. It expands the Welcome Center Initiative to the City of Lewiston's adult education program to attract, educate and retain in employment foreign-trained workers residing in Androscoggin County, patterned after the New Mainers Welcome Center in Portland.

Status: Sent for concurrence to the Senate

SP 570

(Governor’s bill)

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A GENERAL FUND BOND ISSUE TO FUND THE MAINE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS LOAN PROGRAM

Funds provided by this bond issue in the amount of \$10,000,000 will be used by the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Loan Program within the Finance Authority of Maine to provide loans in amounts up to \$7,500 per year for a maximum of 5 years to selected students in Maine pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in the fields of science, computer science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Status: Carry over to 128th legislative session

HP 97

(Rep. Hubbell)

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A GENERAL FUND BOND ISSUE FOR MAINE’S COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Funds provided by this bond issue in the amount of \$15,000,000 will be used to strengthen and expand business and industry training, upgrade and renovate instructional technology facilities and laboratories at Maine’s 7 community colleges in order to strengthen educational programming and workforce development and install energy efficiency upgrades across the system.

Status: Carry over to 128th legislative session

HP 1152

(Rep. Kornfield)

AN ACT TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF PROFICIENCY-BASED DIPLOMAS BY EXTENDING THE TIMELINE FOR PHASING IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

Delays by one year the timeline for the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

HP 1177

(Rep. Kornfield)

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS FOR THE COMPLETION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENTS

Proposes to establish alternative pathways to the successful completion of certain secondary school mathematics requirements.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

HP 1276

(Governor’s bill)

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A GENERAL FUND BOND ISSUE TO PROVIDE FOR STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF

Funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000 will be used to provide funds to the Finance Authority of Maine for zero-interest student loans and loan consolidation or refinancing interest rate reductions for certain Maine residents who agree to live and work in Maine for at least 5 years. Creates the Maine Student Loan Debt Relief Program, which provides for zero-interest loans up to \$10,000 per year for a maximum of 5 years who study at qualified higher education institution to certain Maine residents who agree to live and work in Maine for at least 5 years upon graduation.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Massachusetts General Assembly

H. 41

(Office of the State Treasurer)

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. Said notice shall include, but not be limited to: (i) an estimate of the total amount of education loans incurred by the student; (ii) an estimate of the total potential payoff amount of the educational loans incurred or a range of the total payoff amount; and (iii) an estimate of the monthly repayment amounts that a similarly situated borrower may incur, including principal and interest, for the amount of loans the student has taken out at the time the information is provided.

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means (1/2018)

H. 631

(Rep. Donahue)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CREATION OF THE BATTLEFIELD TO STEM FIELD INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Establishes a Battlefield to STEM Program, which shall provide financial support to veterans who have completed 1 year of instruction in a STEM designated course of educational pursuit and have demonstrated academic promise. The program shall provide each veteran whose application is accepted pursuant to the process established in subsection (c) with the sum of \$5,000 per academic year, for a period of no more than 4 academic years.

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means (10/2017)

H. 643

(Rep. Pignatelli)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN AREAS OF NEED

Provides there shall be a licensed certified social worker student education loan repayment pilot program, for the purpose of increasing and retaining access to child welfare services and social services in the commonwealth. The pilot program shall provide financial assistance to eligible program participants to assist them in repaying student education loans.

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means. Similar bill, S. 683, referred to Senate Ways and Means.

H. 646

(Rep. Scibak)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS HIGHER EDUCATION MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM

There shall be established 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.

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means

H. 4153 (Joint Committee on Higher Education)
AN ACT INVESTING IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

Provides, among other elements:

- The establishment of the Faculty Restoration and Equity Fund. The fund shall provide resources to institutions of public higher education in the commonwealth to: (1) Increase the number of undergraduate courses taught by tenure and tenure-track faculty members at each institutional department; (2) ensure adequate support staff at each institutional department; and (3) ensure that part-time and other non-tenure track faculty receive fully comparable pay and benefits to full-time tenure and tenure-track faculty.
- There shall be 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 one hundred seventy five percent of median family income in Massachusetts.
- 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 state higher education institution, 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.
- Notwithstanding any law or regulation to the contrary, each public institution of higher education shall create a process for ensuring that qualified non-tenure track faculty members receive full and fair consideration in attaining a tenure-track position when one becomes available, consistent with department needs, institutional and state affirmative action, and other personnel policies.

Status: Reporting date extended to Wednesday April 25, 2018

H. 4159 (Joint Committee on Higher Education)
RESOLVE CREATING A TASK FORCE ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT CLIMATE SURVEYS FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

There shall be established a task force on sexual assault climate surveys on the campuses of public and private institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth. The task force shall develop a model sexual assault climate survey to be issued to students attending public and private institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth in order to determine the prevalence and perception of sexual assault on college and university campuses.

Status: Resolve reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means

H. 4286 (Joint Committee on Higher Education)
AN ACT CREATING HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, AUTISM, AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Provides individuals with severe intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, or other developmental disabilities with opportunities to be included with nondisabled students in all aspects of

higher education for the purpose of gaining academic, career and technical, and independent living skills to prepare them for adult life

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Health Care Financing (3/2018)

S. 208 (Sen. Welch)
RESOLVE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Resolved, that there shall be a special commission on young professionals established to examine how the commonwealth can better engage, involve and educate young professionals in decisions and policies that affect them and the commonwealth.

Status: Discharged to the committee on Senate Rules

S. 2169 (Joint Committee on Higher Education)
RESOLVE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO REDUCING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PURCHASE OF COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS

A special commission is hereby established to investigate and study the college textbook industry. The investigation and study shall include, but not be limited to, examining the costs of purchasing textbooks and study materials, reviewing information concerning offering a choice of lower cost texts, such as soft cover, one color and digital texts, exploring 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.

Status: Discharged to the committee on Senate Rules

S. 2192 (Senate Committee on Ways and Means)
AN ACT TO DIVERSIFY THE USE OF THE WORKFORCE TRAINING FUND TO SUPPORT THE WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS TRUST FUND

To provide grants for pipeline training for unemployed persons by an employer with a job vacancy; provided that, the director shall not allocate more than 5 per cent of the annual capitalization of the fund to provide for such grants.

Status: Passed to be engrossed by the Senate on 10/27/2017 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

S. 2203 (Joint Committee on Higher Education)
AN ACT RELATIVE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION CAMPUSES

Each public or private degree-granting post-secondary institution of higher education shall adopt a policy on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking that shall be made available, upon request, to an applicant, student or employee of the institution.

Status: Passed to be engrossed by the Senate on 11/6/2017 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

S. 2235 (Joint Committee on Higher Education)
AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ENDOWMENT MATCH PROGRAM

Not less than \$10,000,000 shall be appropriated in the current fiscal year to support this program, which shall be subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal years.

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means

S. 2247 (Senate Committee on Ways and Means)
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 decision to enroll in the institution of higher education. The uniform financial aid information shopping sheet shall be provided to an accepted applicant a reasonable time prior to the institution's enrollment deadline. An institution of higher education may provide an electronic version of the uniform financial aid information shopping sheet in a printable format.

Status: Passed to be engrossed by the Senate on 1/18/2018 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

S. 2266 (Sen. Brownsberger)
AN ACT TO PREVENT BUREAUCRATIC OVERREACH IN THE COLLECTION OF STUDENT DEBT

Strikes language in MGL chapters

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education

S. 2274 (Joint Committee on Higher Education)
AN ACT ENSURING STUDENTS' ACCESS TO ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

Institutions of higher education shall not withhold a student's academic transcripts solely due to that student's failure to pay any loan payments, fines, fees, tuition, or other expenses owed to the institution, except that a student's academic credits and grades may be withheld for any course for which that student's tuition and mandatory course fees are not paid in full. For students paying on a per semester basis, such an institution may withhold a student's academic credits or grades for any course taken in a semester for which that student's tuition and mandatory course fees have not been paid.

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means

S. 2275 (Joint Committee on Higher Education)
AN ACT RELATIVE TO ADVANCE PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS

Not later than September 1, 2017, a score of three, four, and five on the College Board advanced placement examinations shall be accepted for credit to satisfy degree requirements by all public institutions of higher education

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means

S. 2276 (Joint Committee on Higher Education)
AN ACT RELATIVE TO EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS

The commissioner of the department of higher education and commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education shall establish and administer an early college education program

to increase postsecondary completion rates and participation in career pathways. The program shall consider applications for partnerships among public secondary institutions and public and private institutions of higher education to be designated as Massachusetts Early College Schools. The program shall allow for a minimum accumulation of 12 transferable college credits. Preference shall be given to programs offering at least one career pathway yielding an associate's degree or relevant industry credential.

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means

S. 2297 (Senate Committee on Ways and Means)
AN ACT EXPANDING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRAINING INCENTIVE PROGRAM
Expands the Community College Training Grant Incentive Program by striking “not-for-credit” as a qualifier to vocationally oriented course offerings and instruction.

Status: Passed to be engrossed by the Senate on 2/14/2018 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

S. 2309 (Senate Committee on Ways and Means)
AN ACT PROTECTING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT INFORMATION
Public colleges and universities as defined in section 5 of chapter 15A shall not be required to produce records defined as education records in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C Section 11232g, at 34 C.F.R. 99.3, including education records designated by the public colleges and universities as directory information as defined in FERPA at 34 C.F.R 99.3.

Status: Passed to be engrossed by the Senate on 3/5/2018 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

A Public Hearing of the following bills took place on October 2, 2017 at Westfield State University:

S. 681 (Sen. Eldridge)
AN ACT PROMOTING ACCESS TO DEBT-FREE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION
The commonwealth shall pay the tuition and mandatory curriculum fees or course fees not paid by state grants, federal grants, or gift aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid process for an eligible student. The commonwealth shall pay the housing and transportation costs for an eligible student whose annual family income is not more than the median income in the commonwealth as determined by the United States Census Bureau.

S. 692 (Sen. Lesser)
AN ACT RELATIVE TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION
OSFA shall administer the Massachusetts Workforce Opportunity Scholarship program for students seeking an associate's degree, certificate or diploma from an eligible postsecondary institution. Scholarship recipients shall participate in mentoring and community service programs under rules and regulations promulgated by OSFA. A Massachusetts Workforce Opportunity Scholarship at a Massachusetts public two-year postsecondary institution shall be the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the eligible postsecondary institution attended less all other gift aid. The Massachusetts Workforce Opportunity Scholarship endowment fund shall be established.

S. 700

(Sen. Montigny)

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE BRIDGE THE GAP SCHOLARSHIP TO UNIVERSALIZE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

There shall be a Bridge the Gap Scholarship Program to provide universal access for residents of the Commonwealth to public higher education through accredited degree programs offered at community college institutions under section 5 of this chapter. Such assistance shall apply only after all other federal and state financial assistance has been exhausted. If a student does not fulfill the above requirements, the scholarship will be converted into a low interest loan to be determined and administered by the Department of Higher Education and Massachusetts Education Financing Authority (MEFA) with exemptions for financial hardship. Each community college shall annually consult with their Board of Trustees, local workforce developments boards, and employers to identify current and future workforce needs within such region. Upon identifying such workforce needs, the college shall certify up to five programs eligible to qualify under the Bridge the Gap Scholarship Program to promote universal access to higher education and workforce readiness.

S. 701

(Sen. Moore)

An act relative to breaking generational cycles of poverty

To provide for the cost of creating a career pathways work-study trust fund (TAFDC Career Pathways Trust Fund) and community college specialist positions, the sums set forth are hereby appropriated subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

Status: Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means

S. 702

(Sen. Moore)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Provides, among other elements:

- To ensure that the university of Massachusetts, each state university, and each community college has at its disposal adequate funds to provide, foster and support high quality institutions of public higher education that serve the interests of the commonwealth and its residents
- A transfer system providing individual students with clear and consistent information on the student's progress toward fulfilling degree requirements in any undergraduate program at any public institution of higher education in the state
- All postsecondary educational institutions offering courses and programs leading to degrees or certificates to residents of the commonwealth shall provide uniform student financial aid information to every prospective student who has been accepted for admission to the institution.
- A postsecondary educational institution shall demonstrate to the board that it has: (a) not more than 40% of its undergraduate students borrowing student loans; (b) 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 (c) an average 3 year cohort default rate that is not more than 20%, as most recently reported by the U.S. Department of Education.
- The board of higher education shall establish a pilot program to promote student employment partnerships between graduates of public and private institutions of higher education in the state and the state's business community. Business entities selected to participate in the pilot program shall supplement a percentage of a participating student's tuition and fees, and in

providing this assistance shall receive a 20% state income tax credit on the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees paid by the participating business entity.

Status: Similar bill, H. 640, reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on House Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets

S. 709 (Sen. Tarr)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FINISH LINE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

There shall be 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. 2088 (Sen. Moore)

AN ACT MAKING COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN MASSACHUSETTS FREE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE STATE

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 of providing free community colleges for residents of the state.

H. 3000 (Rep. Garballey, Rep. Higgins)

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A FINISH LINE GRANT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE COLLEGE COMPLETION

There shall be 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 twice the median family income in Massachusetts.

H. 3004 (Rep. Provost)

AN ACT TO ADDRESS THE DEGREE GAP AND REDUCE STUDENT DEBT

The commonwealth, subject to appropriation, shall provide to all Massachusetts high school graduates who have maintained the high school grade point average to be determined by the board of higher education with two years of community college, free of tuition and fees.

H. 3490 (Rep. McMurty)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND

Establishes the Massachusetts Educational Trust Fund with an appropriation of \$1,000,000. The fund shall provide financial assistance to students to attain post-secondary degrees at accredited public institutions of higher education or community colleges in the commonwealth. Students shall submit to the board applications for financial assistance from the fund. The income of an applicant's parents or guardians shall not be a factor in determining eligibility for financial assistance from the fund, or the amount of financial assistance an applicant may receive. The board shall establish repayment plans with each recipient of financial assistance from the fund. Recipients shall begin repayment of financial assistance 6 months from the date the recipient graduated or received a degree from an accredited public institution of higher education or a community college.

**Ballot Question for November Election, 2018
Amendment to the State Constitution**

(Fair Share Massachusetts)

Article 44 of the Massachusetts Constitution is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph at the end thereof: To provide the resources for quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation, all revenues received in accordance with this paragraph shall be expended, subject to appropriation, only for these purposes. In addition to the taxes on income otherwise authorized under this Article, there shall be an additional tax of 4 percent on that portion of annual taxable income in excess of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) reported on any return related to those taxes. To ensure that this additional tax continues to apply only to the commonwealth's highest income residents, this \$1,000,000 (one million dollar) income level shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increases in the cost of living by the same method used for federal income tax brackets. This paragraph shall apply to all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

Note: Court challenge has been filed

New Hampshire General Court

SB 355-FN

(Sen. D'Allesandro)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE NAMES OF THE COLLEGES IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR

Re-brands colleges in the community college system of New Hampshire as “state colleges” and appropriates \$500,000 for the expenses related to the re-branding.

Status: Laid on table, Senate Committee on Education

SB 356

(Sen. Gannon)

AN ACT ADDING A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TO THE APPRENTICESHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

Adds a representative from the community college system to the apprenticeship advisory council.

Status: Passed by the Senate Committee, before the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee

SB 436

(Sen. Soucy)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO TUITION IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

This bill authorizes the community college system board of trustees to establish a tuition discount for less than full-time employees.

Status: Passed/adopted with amendment by Senate Committee, before House Committee on Education

SB 437

(Sen. Avard)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ROBOTICS EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Adds eligibility criteria for grants to schools from the robotics education fund. Also provides for additional grants in the event that funds remain in the fund after initial requests have been met.

Status: Passed/adopted with amendment by Senate Committee, before House Committee on Education

SB 525 – FN

(Sen. Sanborn)

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND ADULT EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY STUDENT WHO IS NOT A LEGAL RESIDENT

Prohibits the university system and community college system from distributing state-funded financial assistance to any student who is not a legal resident of the United States. The bill also limits the availability of adult education programs funded by state or local sources to legal residents of the state of New Hampshire.

Status: Adopted by Senate with amendment, before House Committee on Education

HB 477

(Rep. Schleien)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUSES IN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

This bill limits the ability of an institution within the university system or community college system to restrict a student's right to speak in a public forum.

Status: Laid on table, House Committee on Education

HB 1100 (Rep. Hinch)
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE WORKFORCE AND JOB TRAINING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Establishes a commission to review and evaluate workforce and job training programs in New Hampshire. The purpose of the commission is to review and evaluate all government funded workforce and job training programs in New Hampshire to ensure that they are effective, not duplicative, and that they are contributing to the needs of the workforce and the labor market.

Status: Passed by the House Commerce Committee, before the Senate Commerce Committee

HB 1258 (Rep. Williams)
RELATIVE TO THE ADVANCE MANUFACTURING EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

This bill permits the advanced manufacturing education advisory council to accept and coordinate funds to support certain workforce training efforts.

Status: Passed/adopted with amendment by House Committee, before Senate Committee on Education

HB 1495 (Rep. Wolf)
RELATIVE TO STANDARDS FOR AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION

Provides for additional indicators that school districts are required to report annually to the department of education regarding delivery of an adequate education. The bill also establishes a rating scale for school districts regarding performance standards.

Status: Passed/adopted with amendment by House Committee, before Senate Committee on Education

HB 1498 (Rep. Ladd)
RELATIVE TO ALTERNATE CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS

Permits local school boards to offer a certificate of eligibility to a person interested in becoming a career and technical educator in an identified specialty area.

Status: Passed/adopted with amendment by House Committee, before Senate Committee on Education

HB 1674 FN (Rep. Wolf)
RELATIVE TO COMPUTER SCIENCE AND DIGITAL SKILLS REQUIRED FOR AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION

Modifies the educational content of an adequate education. Also modifies the input-based accountability standards for technical education required for a school to demonstrate that it provides the opportunity for an adequate education.

Status: Passed/adopted with amendment by House Committee, before Senate Committee on Education

Rhode Island General Assembly

H 7154 (Rep. Price)
AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION – DUAL ENROLLMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

Extends the benefits of the dual enrollment equal opportunity act to cover home-schooled students.

Status: Committee recommended measure be held for further study

H 7537 (Rep. Barros)
AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – RHODE ISLAND VALUES ACT – ENHANCED COMMUNITY PROTECTION IN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Enhances community protection during ICE enforcement and investigatory actions. It would identify certain community locations and would require that these locations receive a judicial warrant before they grant access to enforcement agents. Also provides for exemption to these procedures where there are certain exigent circumstances.

Status: Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

H 7568 (Rep. Edwards)
AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION – AMERICANIZATION OF SCHOOLS

Repeals the requirement that persons between sixteen (16) and twenty-one (21) years of age who cannot speak, read and write English, attend school for the teaching of the English language for at least two hundred (200) hours until they acquire reasonable facility in speaking, reading and writing English. Also repeals fines and commitment to an institution as punishment for willful violation of this act.

Status: Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.

H 7591 (Rep. Kazarian)
AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES – WEAPONS – SAFE SCHOOLS ACT

Provides that only peace officers and persons approved by the school authorities for the purposes of educational instruction may carry firearms or other weapons on school grounds.

Status: Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

S 2051 (Sen. Picard)
AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION – THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

Requires that the board of elementary and secondary education adopt a competency-based/proficiency-based learning policy whereby students can earn credits through demonstration of competency and provides that freed up seat time be used to advance academic or technical training through AP courses, dual enrollment, internships and apprenticeships.

Status: Committee recommended measure be held for further study

S 2206 (Sen. Metts)
AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION – TUITION EQUITY

Creates 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, referred to Senate Finance

S 2349

(Sen. Metts)

AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION – CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Permits children between sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) years of age and in their junior or senior year who are attending career and technical education centers to participate in career and technical internships or teacher supervised job site training programs at or through said education center; provided, that the students are deemed to have the necessary educational background experience and maturity.

Status: Introduced, referred to Senate Education

Vermont General Assembly

S. 130

(Senate Committee on Education)

AN ACT RELATING TO MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES TO EDUCATION LAWS

Among other elements, this bill proposes to provide an appropriation to the Vermont State Colleges for the purpose of evaluating or reevaluating educational and training programs for college credit at no cost or at a reduced cost to the programs being evaluated.

Status: Passed by the House in concurrence with proposal of amendment, committed to Senate Committee on Education

S. 183

(Sen. Ingram)

AN ACT RELATING TO THE ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS ATTENDING APPROVED INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS THAT ARE PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

This bill proposes to permit a student who attends an approved independent school that is a parochial school to be eligible for dual enrollment courses. It accomplishes this by eliminating the requirement that a student's district of residence must pay publicly funded tuition to the approved independent school on behalf of the student.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Education

S. 195

(Sen. Westman)

AN ACT RELATING TO THE VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Creates the Vermont National Guard Educational Assistance Program, which would enable members of the Vermont National Guard to take courses tuition free at the University of Vermont, the State Agricultural College, the Vermont State Colleges and participating private postsecondary educational institutions while phasing out the interest-free loan educational program currently available to members of the Vermont National Guard.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Education

S. 231

(Sen. Pollina, Sen. Pearson)

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

Creates the Vermont Promise Scholarship Program to provide tuition-free scholarships for Vermont Students who attend the University of Vermont or a Vermont State College. The program would be funded by the creation of a property tax system in which the amount due is adjusted by income for taxpayers.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Education

H. 767

(Rep. Botzow)

AN ACT RELATING TO ADOPTING THE THINKVERMONT INNOVATION INITIATIVE

This bill proposes to adopt the ThinkVermont Innovation Initiative, which would provide small businesses with grants to provide workforce training, attract, retain or support remote workers in Vermont, establish or enhance business generators, maker-spaces and co-working spaces, remote work hubs, among other endeavors.

Status: Passed by the House, referred to Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

H. 792

(Rep. Colburn)

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

Creates the Vermont Promise Scholarship Program to provide tuition-free scholarships for Vermont students who attend the University of Vermont or a Vermont State College. The Program would be funded by the creation of an education property tax system in which the amount of tax due is adjusted by income for all taxpayers.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Education

H. 833

(Rep. Botzow)

AN ACT RELATING TO PROVIDING WORKFORCE TRAINING FUNDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

This bill proposes to make funding available for small businesses through the Vermont Training Program. Matching grants of not more than \$15,000 may be awarded to small businesses to address persistent hiring challenges or skills gap or to provide training to a part-time employee to become full-time.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

H. 855

(Rep. Beck)

AN ACT RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE GROW VERMONT CATEGORICAL GRANT FUND

This bill proposes to create the 8 Grow Vermont Categorical Grant Fund within the Education Fund for the 9 purpose of funding early education, career and technical education, and 10 postsecondary learning tuition assistance. Funding for the Grow Vermont 11 Categorical Grant Fund would be achieved through savings derived from the 12 replacement of the current special education reimbursement funding system 13 with the special education census-based grant funding system.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Education

H. 888

(Rep. Lanpher)

An Act Relating to Creating a Pilot Program for the Universal Children's Higher Education Savings Account Program

Creates a pilot program for the Universal Children's Higher Education Savings Account Program. The program would provide funding to students in a school district that has a high percentage of students from an economically deprived background or a low postsecondary graduation percentage for the purpose of funding postsecondary education.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Education

H. 919

(House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development)

AN ACT RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

This bill proposes to provide a framework for a public engagement process and succeeding steps to modernize and strengthen the State's workforce development system. It provides for career pathway development and strengthening workforce training programs, including expanding work-based

learning experiences and career counseling initiatives and creating the Vermont Strong Returnship Program.

Status: Passed by the House, referred to Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs