
By Mr. Tamkin of Boston, petition of Alvin C. Tamkin for legislation to establish community colleges and a community college commission. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND TO DECLARE THEIR PURPOSE AND FUNCTION; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PERSONNEL OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION AND TO DEFINE THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES, AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The creation, establishment, maintenance and
2 operation of two-year community colleges are hereby author-
3 ized. They shall offer to students, who have completed not
4 less than fifteen high school units, courses correlated to those
5 of senior colleges and professional schools; and education and
6 training for occupations such as agriculture, industry, busi-
7 ness, homemaking and other occupations on the semi-pro-
8 fessional and vocational-technical level. In addition, the com-
9 munity colleges shall provide, through courses or other ac-
10 ceptable educational measures, the general education neces-
11 sary to individuals and groups which will tend to make them
12 capable of living satisfactory lives consistent with the ideals
13 of a democratic society.

1 SECTION 2. There is hereby created the community col-
2 lege commission consisting of five members:—the state com-
3 missioner of education, the president of the University of
4 Massachusetts, and the presidents of three junior or community
5 colleges in the state, the latter three to be chosen initially by
6 the governor with the approval of his council.

7 The community college commission shall regulate the estab-
8 lishment and operation of community colleges in the state, and
9 shall have the following powers and duties in particular: —

10 (1) To fix standards for community colleges to qualify for
11 community college appropriations, with respect to training of
12 teachers and administrators, physical plant and equipment, ad-
13 ministrative organization, curriculum, enrollment, admission
14 requirements, etc.

15 (2) To certify annually to the state treasurer and commis-
16 sioner of education the names of such community colleges
17 which are eligible for state-disbursed funds. The commission
18 shall serve without compensation, but their necessary expenses
19 shall be paid out of the Massachusetts School Fund.

1 SECTION 3. Subject to the provisions of this act, commu-
2 nity colleges may be established by one or more municipalities,
3 singly or in combination, by proceeding as follows: —

4 The school board of a community desiring to establish a
5 community college shall petition the community college com-
6 mission for the approval of its establishment. The petition
7 shall include the proposed location of the physical plant of the
8 community college and a statement of the proposed plan of
9 operation. The community college commission shall approve
10 or disapprove the petition and shall notify the petitioners ac-
11 cordingly.

1 SECTION 4. There shall be five trustees for each community
2 college. The superintendent of schools of the municipality in
3 which the community college is located shall be a member, and
4 there shall be one member from the state board of education.
5 The other members shall be appointed by the school committee
6 of the municipality.

7 The trustees may be paid by the local municipalities, and
8 their terms of office shall be five years.

9 The duties of the trustees shall be the general government
10 of the community college and directive of the administration
11 thereof, subject to the provisions of this act. However, the
12 executive head of the community college shall be the president
13 of the college, who shall be selected by the board of trustees.

1 SECTION 5. The president of the college shall be general
2 manager of the fiscal and administrative affairs of the college
3 and shall have authority to select, direct and discharge all
4 employees — subject to the approval of the board of trustees.

1 SECTION 6. A community college, at the discretion of its
2 trustees, may charge fees and tuition, but these should not ex-
3 ceed in aggregate one third of the operating costs of the com-
4 munity college.

1 SECTION 7. Consideration shall be given to the possibility
2 of utilizing or converting for the purposes of community col-
3 leges, existing state and municipal institutions and facilities.

1 SECTION 8. In contradistinction to the University of Mas-
2 sachusetts, these community colleges will be state-aided rather
3 than state-operated institutions. The financial support of the
4 community college will come primarily from local sources, with
5 state participation being equal to one half of capital costs and
6 one third of operating costs, subject to such maximum limita-
7 tions as may be prescribed by the community college commis-
8 sion. Such limitations may be based upon maximum allowances
9 per student.

10 The local sponsor or sponsors shall provide at least one half
11 of the amount of capital cost, and at least one third of the
12 operating costs.

1 SECTION 9. This act shall not be construed to invalidate the
2 right of the state department of education to establish a com-
3 munity college as a division of an existing state teachers college,
4 as provided by section four of chapter six hundred and twenty
5 of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-eight.

