

By Mr. Natsios of Holliston, petition of Andrew S. Natsios, James J. Gaffney III and Andrew H. Card, Jr., relative to tuition grants to qualified students in accredited independent institutions. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION GRANTS TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS IN ACCREDITED INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS.

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. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise
2 requires: —

3 (a) "Tuition grant" means an award under this act by the
4 commonwealth to a qualified student.

5 (b) "Financial need" means the difference between a student's
6 available financial resources and such student's total anticipated
7 expenses to attend a certain accredited independent institution. A
8 student's financial resources shall include (1) six hundred dollars
9 (\$600) each year from his own work and resources, and (2) a
10 contribution from his parents' income and assets, if sufficient, as
11 determined by a completed parents' confidential statement and
12 based upon the accepted criteria of a nationally recognized
13 financial needs analysis agency. Financial need shall be redeter-
14 mined at least annually.

15 (c) "Full-time in-state student" means a person who is a resident
16 of Massachusetts and who is enrolled at an accredited independent
17 institution in a course of study of at least twelve (12) hours each
18 semester or the equivalent thereof.

19 (d) "Qualified student" means a full-time in-state student who
20 has established financial need and who is initially acceptable for
21 entering an institution of higher learning or who has so entered and

22 is in good standing and making satisfactory progress toward
23 graduation.

24 (e) "Accredited independent institution" means an institution of
25 higher learning located in Massachusetts which (1) is operated
26 independently and not controlled or administered by any state
27 agency or any subdivision of the state, (2) maintains open
28 enrollment, and (3) is accredited by the regional accrediting
29 agency.

30 (f) "Open enrollment" means the policy of an institution of
31 higher learning of the opportunity of enrollment for any student
32 who needs its academic and other reasonable enrollment
33 requirements, without regard for race, religion, creed or national
34 origin.

35 (g) "Board" means the board of higher education established
36 under General Laws chapter 15.

37 (h) "Term" means one or two or more divisions of an academic
38 year of an institution of higher learning in which substantially all
39 courses begin and end at substantially the same time, and during
40 which instruction is regularly given to students.

41 (i) "Semester" means one of two principal terms, when there are
42 only two principal terms in the academic year, whether or not there
43 are other shorter terms during the same academic year.

1 SECTION 2. A tuition grant may be awarded to any qualified
2 student enrolled at any accredited independent institution, except
3 that a qualified student may receive tuition grants for not more
4 than eight (8) semesters of undergraduate study or the equivalent
5 thereof. The board shall determine the equivalent of eight (8)
6 semesters when all or part of the terms for which a student receives
7 tuition grants are not semesters.

1 SECTION 3. The amount of a tuition grant to a qualified
2 student for the fall and spring semesters, or the equivalent thereof,
3 shall be the amount of such student's financial need for the period,
4 except that tuition grants to a student in any year shall not exceed
5 the lesser of:

6 (a) The total tuition and required fees of that student for two
7 semesters, or the equivalent thereof, or

8 (b) One half the cost of attendance in an equivalent 2 or 4 year
9 public institution as determined by the board.

10 When tuition grants are received by a student for one or more
11 terms that are not semesters, the board shall determine what is the
12 equivalent of the fall and spring semesters.

1 SECTION 4. A tuition grant may be made annually for both
2 the fall and spring semesters, or the equivalent thereof. Payments
3 under any such tuition grant shall be allocated equally between the
4 semesters, when the student plans to attend two semesters in an
5 academic year, and otherwise as specified by the board. Tuition
6 grants shall be paid at the beginning of each semester or other term
7 upon certification by the accredited independent institution that
8 the student is enrolled and is a qualified student. Payments under
9 any tuition grant shall be made upon vouchers approved by the
10 administrative officer of the board designated by it, and upon
11 receiving the same the controller shall issue his warrant to the
12 student entitled thereto and shall cause such warrant to be
13 delivered to the accredited independent institution in which such
14 student is enrolled. If a student discontinues attendance before the
15 end of any semester or other term, after receiving payment under a
16 tuition grant, the entire amount which such student would
17 otherwise qualify to have refunded, up to the amount of any
18 payments made for tuition grants in the academic year, shall be
19 paid by the accredited private institution to the commonwealth.

1 SECTION 5. The board of higher education shall administer
2 this act and shall:

3 (a) Provide application forms and forms for parents' confiden-
4 tial statements.

5 (b) Adopt rules and regulations for determining financial need,
6 selecting financial needs analysis agencies, defining tuition and
7 required fees, determining priority or apportionment of tuition
8 grants and other matters necessary for the administration of this
9 act. The board may provide for apportionment of tuition grants if
10 the appropriations for tuition grants are insufficient to pay all
11 approved tuition grants. To determine who is an in-state student
12 for the purpose of this act, the board shall adopt rules and

13 regulations consistent with laws for determination of in-state
14 students in universities and colleges in public higher education
15 institutions.

16 (c) Approve and award tuition grants.

17 (d) Determine those institutions of higher learning which qualify
18 as accredited independent institutions.

19 (e) Make an annual report to the governor and legislature, and
20 evaluate the tuition grant program for the period.

21 (f) The board may require any accredited independent
22 institution to promptly furnish any information which the board
23 requests relating to administration or effect of this act.

1 SECTION 6. Each applicant for a tuition grant, in accordance
2 with the rules and regulations of the board shall:

3 (a) Complete and file an application for a tuition grant.

4 (b) Be responsible for the submission of the parents' confidential
5 statement to the board and to the institution of higher learning at
6 which such student is enrolling.

7 (c) Report promptly to the board any information requested
8 relating to administration of this act.

9 (d) File a new application and parents' confidential statement
10 annually on the basis of which his eligibility for a tuition grant shall
11 be evaluated and determined.

1 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.