

By Mr. Giordano of Methuen, petition of the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Larry F. Giordano, M. Joseph Manning and Salvatore R. Albano relative to college credit for courses in American sign language. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO COLLEGE CREDIT FOR COURSES IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

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

1 Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by insert-
2 ing after section 5 the following section: —

3 Section 5½. The board of regents is hereby authorized and
4 directed to establish, within the system of public institutions of
5 higher education, courses in American sign language, also known
6 as ASL or Ameslan, a standard independent, visual-gestural
7 language with its own grammar, vocabulary, history and culture.

8 Said course shall award credits which may be used toward
9 fulfilling foreign language requirements for degrees.

