

By Mr. Rosenberg, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 253) of Stanley C. Rosenberg for legislation to establish a student-supported legal services office at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CERTAIN STUDENT SERVICES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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 75 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 11A the following new section: —

3 Section 11B. (a) There shall be established a student-
4 supported legal services office at the University of Massachusetts
5 at Amherst, which shall be funded from the trust fund supported
6 by student activities fees, as provided for in Section 11 of this
7 Chapter. The amount of funding for said office shall be
8 determined each year by the duly elected official representatives
9 of the undergraduate and graduate student bodies.

10 (b) The level, nature and scope of services to be provided by
11 the legal services office shall be determined by the legal services
12 governing board, consistent with the availability and amount of
13 funding appropriated from trust funds by the undergraduate and
14 graduate student governments. This board shall consist of five
15 undergraduate students and three graduate students appointed by
16 presidents of the undergraduate and graduate student govern-
17 ments, respectively, and one faculty member and one administra-
18 tor of the university. Members of the governing board shall be
19 confirmed by said board, based upon their support for the
20 provision of legal services to the students of the univeristy. The
21 board shall adopt bylaws consistent with this section for the
22 conduct of its business.

23 (c) The trustees of the university or their designees shall provide
24 the legal services office with funding and resources from the
25 appropriate student-supported trust funds, in the amount
26 appropriated by the undergraduate and graduate student
27 governments, and shall administer said funds in a manner
28 consistent with this and other laws of the commonwealth.

29 (d) The attorneys and staff of the legal services office shall be
30 employees of the university and the commonwealth, as provided
31 in this chapter, but shall be considered as official representatives
32 of the student body as provided in section 11A of this chapter.
33 The attorneys and staff shall not be subject to the requirements
34 and restrictions of chapter 268A while acting within the scope of
35 their employment as providers of legal services to eligible clients.