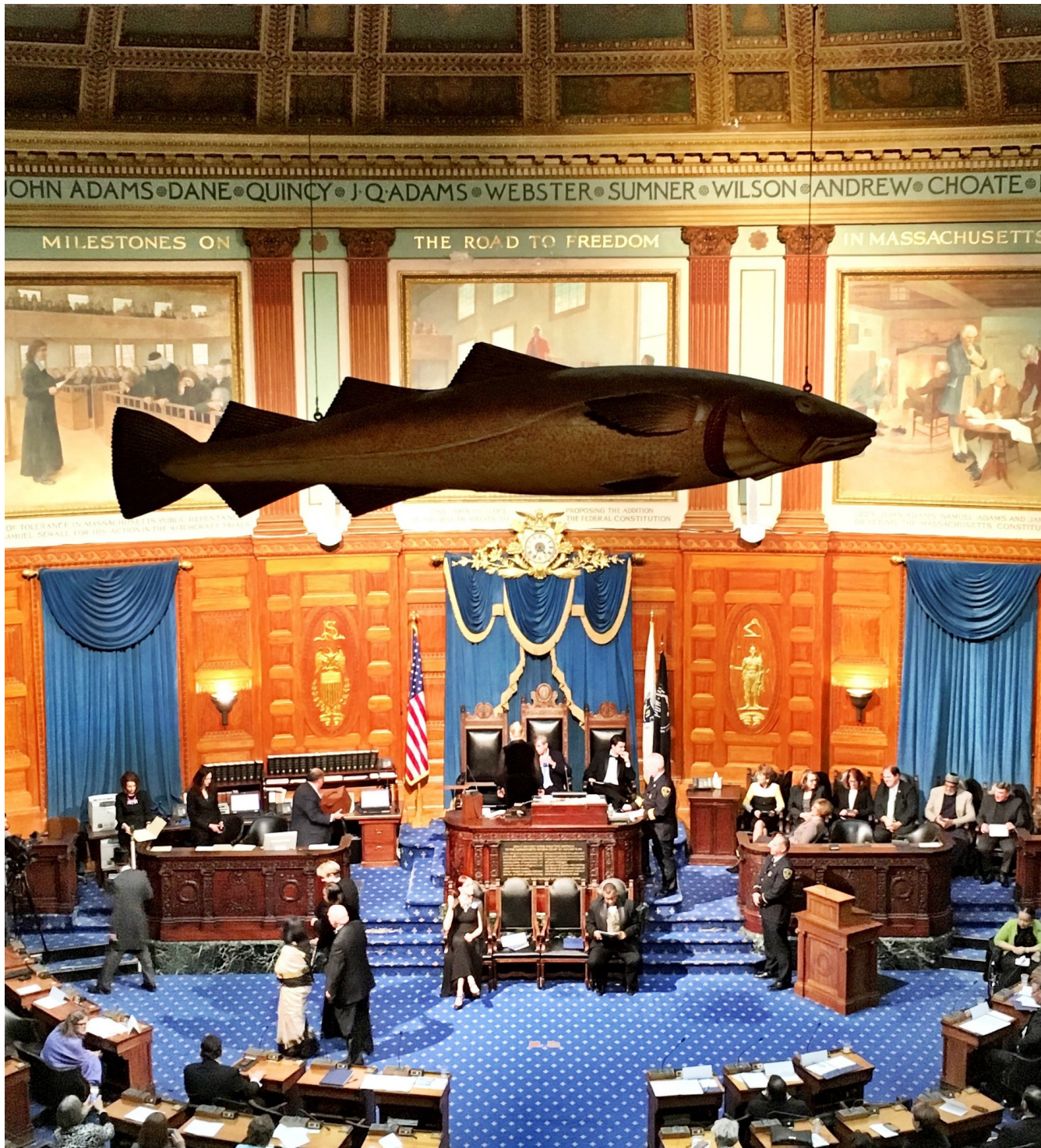


2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION
SPRING EDITION | MARCH 2021

Pictured: The Sacred Cod in the House of Representatives chamber of the Massachusetts State House.



DID YOU KNOW?

The *Sacred Cod* (pictured on cover and at bottom left) is a four-foot-eleven-inch carved-wood effigy of an Atlantic codfish that has hung in the House of Representatives chamber of the Massachusetts State House since 1784.

- The *Sacred Cod* is a "memorial of the importance of Cod-Fishery to the welfare of" the Commonwealth.
- The current cod is the third incarnation. The first was lost in a 1747 fire. The second disappeared during the American Revolution.
- The wooden fish was "cod-napped" in 1933 by members of the *Harvard Lampoon*. It was recovered — with three damaged fins — a few days later.
- Not to be outdone, the State House Senate chamber also has a fish figure displayed: a brass casting called the Holy Mackerel (pictured bottom right).



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Legislators in the 2020 session focused almost exclusively to **COVID-19-related legislation** and **state budget concerns**. In 2021, COVID-19-related legislation continues to be a major focus, but other issues are also taking center stage, such as

KEY THEMES IN 2021

Expanding Work-Based Learning Opportunities

- **HB.6227 (Connecticut)**: Would establish a task force to identify high-growth, high-demand jobs and analyze the implementation of partnerships that provide apprenticeship opportunities for such jobs.
- **SB-44 (New Hampshire)**: Would establish a workforce pathway program and commission in the Community College System of New Hampshire.
- **SB.213 (Rhode Island)**: Would establish Apprenticeship Pathways to Earning a Bachelor's Degree Act to enable individuals to earn a bachelor's degree at public higher education institutions in RI by earning credits through apprenticeships.

Sexual Assault on Campus

- **HB.6374 (Connecticut)**: Would establish a Council on Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey to better understand and protect students who report being a victim of sexual assault, stalking, or violence on-campus.
- **S.2979 (Massachusetts), PASSED**: Stipulates that each higher education institution must conduct a sexual misconduct climate survey of all students every four years. Takes effect August 1, 2021.
- **H.183 (Vermont)**: Would form a task force on campus sexual harm to allow schools to share resources, information, and best practices to create more consistency across Vermont's campuses.

COVID-19 (selection)

- **LD 96 (Maine)**: Would extend an exemption for students who elect a philosophical or religious exemption from immunization on or before September 1, 2021.
- **SD.762 (Massachusetts)**: Would provide liability protection to higher education institutions and employers that develop, manufacture, test, or distribute PPE in response to COVID-19.
- **HB-255 (New Hampshire)**: Would establish liability limitations for higher education institutions and businesses from actual or alleged exposure to COVID-19.

COVID-19-Related Learning Loss

- **LD 325 (Maine)**: Would allow students whose access to on-site education has been limited due to the pandemic to be classified as having experienced education disruption and eligible for school work recognition plans to demonstrate achievement.
- **LD 334 (Maine)**: Would establish methods, services, and programs to provide students with remedial assistance in response to COVID-19-related education disruption.

Attainment

- **HD.1455 (Massachusetts)**: Would require higher education institutions to provide flexibility in graduation requirements for students who have been diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability.
- **HD.2416 (Massachusetts)**: Would create a Finish Line Grant program to provide scholarships to cover the cost of tuition and fees for one year in programs leading to an associate or bachelor's degree to encourage increase college completion.
- **H.377 (Vermont)**: Would create a public-private partnership with Advance Vermont to increase postsecondary attainment in Vermont.

NEW ENGLAND BOARD
of HIGHER EDUCATION 
Legislative Advisory Committee Members
Co-chairs in red

CONNECTICUT

Sen. Mae Flexer*

Deputy President Pro Tempore & Federal Relations Liaison
Chair: Government Administration and Elections
Vice Chair: Higher Education and Employment Advancement
Member: Appropriations; Education; Judiciary

Sen. Will Haskell

Deputy President Pro Tempore
Chair: Transportation
Vice Chair: Government Administration and Elections
Member: Energy and Technology; Environment; Judiciary; Public Health

Sen. James Maroney

Deputy Majority Leader
Chair: General Law; Regulations Review
Vice Chair: Veterans' Affairs
Member: Finance, Revenue & Bonding; Higher Education & Employment Advancement;
Insurance and Real Estate

Rep. Gary Turco

Vice Chair: Higher Education and Employment Advancement
Member: Appropriations; Veterans' Affairs

Rep. Gregory Haddad*

Member: Appropriations; Government Administration and Elections; Higher Education and
Employment Advancement

MAINE

Rep. Rebecca Millett*

Member: Education and Cultural Affairs; Leaves of Absence

Sen. Lisa Keim

Member: Government Oversight; Judiciary

Sen. Matthew Pouliot

Member: Taxation

Sen. Matthea (Mattie) Daughtry*

Chair: Education and Cultural Affairs

MASSACHUSETTS

Sen. Marc R. Pacheco*

Chair: State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
Vice Chair: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
Member: Global Warming and Climate Change; Higher Education

Sen. Anne Gobi

Chair: Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture; Higher Education
Vice Chair: Public Service
Member: Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets; Post Audit and Oversight;
Redistricting; Ways and Means; Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

Sen. Michael Moore

Chair: Post Audit and Oversight
Vice Chair: Financial Services
Member: Intergovernmental Affairs; Ways and Means

Rep. Pat Haddad*

Member: Export Development

* NEBHE Board Member

MASSACHUSETTS (CONT.)

Rep. Sean Garballey

Chair: Global Warming and Climate Change
Member: Higher Education

Rep. Jeffrey Roy

Chair: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

Rep. Dave Rogers

Chair: Higher Education

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sen. David Watters*

Vice Chair: Transportation
Member: Capital Budget; Energy and Natural Resources

Sen. Jay Kahn

Chair: Education and Workforce Development
Member: Finance Committee

Rep. Rick Ladd

Chair: Education

Sen. Ruth Ward

Chair: Education

RHODE ISLAND

Sen. Lou DiPalma*

Chair: Rules, Government, Ethics, and Oversight
First Vice Chairman: Finance
Member: Education

Sen. Hanna M. Gallo*

Senate President Pro Tempore
Vice Chair: Education
Member: Housing and Municipal Government; Commerce

Rep. Gregg Amore*

Deputy Majority Leader
Chair: Finance Subcommittee on Education
Second Vice Chair: Education
Member: Finance; Innovation, Internet, and Technology

Rep. Joseph McNamara*

Chair: Health, Education, and Welfare; Education
Member: Labor; Rules

Rep. William W. O'Brien

Deputy Majority Leader
First Vice Chair: Corporations; Rules
Second Vice Chair: Environment and Natural Resources
Member: Finance

Rep. June Speakman

Vice Chair: Municipal Government and Housing
Member: House Health and Human Services; Environment and Natural Resources; Oversight

VERMONT

Sen. Andrew Perchlik

Member: Education; Transportation; Workgroup on Lessons Learned; Canvassing

Rep. Peter Conlon

Ranking Member: Education
Member: Canvassing

Rep. Kathleen James

Clerk: Education
Member: Canvassing

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Current Status: The 2021 legislative session convened on January 6 and is scheduled to adjourn on June 9. The Capitol Complex is currently closed. Hearings are occurring via Zoom.

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| <p>HB 5039</p> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING A PERSONAL INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR CERTAIN COLLEGE GRADUATES WITH STEM DEGREES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Yaccarino</p> <p>Summary: To reestablish a credit against the personal income tax for certain college graduates who receive a degree in a science, technology, engineering or math-related field.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding, 01/11/2021</p> |
| <p>HB 5150</p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE HIRING PROGRAM FOR RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Nuccio</p> <p>Summary: To incentivize recent graduates to work and live in Connecticut, replenish our aging state workforce and assist with the burden of student debt.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Commerce, 01/13/2021</p> |
| <p>HB 5213</p> | <p>AN ACT FUNDING THE DEBT-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Turco</p> <p>Summary: To fully fund the debt-free community college program.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations, 01/22/2021</p> |
| <p>HB 5218</p> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE TRAINING AT GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Mushinsky</p> <p>Summary: To establish a workforce training program for advanced manufacturing at Gateway Community College.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Commerce, 01/22/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 5463</u></p> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY ELIGIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Haddad</p> <p>Summary: To identify education programs offered by institutions of higher education which comply with federal regulations that allow eligible students to enroll in the state-administered federal supplemental nutrition assistance program.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/25/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 5468</u></p> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING COLLEGE CREDITS AWARDED FOR MILITARY TRAINING</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Haines</p> <p>Summary: To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to conduct a review every five years of the guidelines for awarding college credit for a student's military training for the purpose of maximizing the college credits awarded.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/25/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 5507</u></p> | <p>AN ACT PROHIBITING COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION PREPARATION COMPANIES FROM DISCLOSING OR SELLING STUDENT INFORMATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ackert</p> <p>Summary: To protect the privacy of students taking college entrance exams.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Education, 01/26/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 5545</u></p> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: Haskell, Turco, Flexer, Haddad, Maroney)</p> |

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| | <p>Summary: To require the Board of Regents for Higher Education to include the central office of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities in the itemization of its budget request.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/26/2021</p> |
| <u>HB 5668</u> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MICROCREDENTIALIAL PILOT PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): McCarthy</p> <p>Summary: To establish a microcredentialial pilot program.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/27/2021</p> |
| <u>HB 5776</u> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR ALLIANCE DISTRICTS THAT OFFER EARLY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Johnson, Flexer, Smith, Godfrey, Michel, Hughes, Gucker, Porter, Elliott</p> <p>Summary: To create a larger college student population which is necessary to fill positions in high-tech industries in the state. This bill amends existing statute to provide funding to school districts designated as alliance districts, pursuant to statute, whose alliance district plan includes early college opportunities for students to earn credits toward an associate degree while enrolled in high school.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Education, 01/28/2021</p> |
| <u>HB 5796</u> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OF THE PRESS FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): France, Fishbein, Dauphinais, Dubitsky, Wilson, Mastrofrancesco, Ackert, Anderson, Fiorello, Fusco, Hayes, Lanoue, Piscopo, Polletta, Vail</p> <p>Summary: To protect student expression and student publications except when such expression or publications are obscene, libelous, slanderous or disrupt school activities.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Education, 01/28/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HB 5897</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR BUSINESSES THAT HIRE RECENT GRADUATES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Harding</p> <p>Summary: To establish a tax credit for businesses that hire a recent high school or college graduate.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/28/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 5900</u></p> | <p>AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER OR CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Pavalock-D'Amato</p> <p>Summary: To require legislative approval for the merger or closing of institutions within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/28/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 6206</u></p> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Chafee</p> <p>Summary: To establish polling places for use during elections on college and university campuses.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections, 01/29/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 6227</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN INDUSTRIES WITH A HIRING NEED IN THE STATE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: <u>Haskell</u>, <u>Turco</u>, <u>Flexer</u>, <u>Haddad</u>, <u>Maroney</u>)</p> <p>Summary: To establish a task force to identify high-growth, high-demand jobs and analyze the implementation and creation of partnerships that provide apprenticeship opportunities for such jobs.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/29/2021</p> |
| <u>HB 6230</u> | <p>AN ACT ADDING ADDITIONAL STUDENT MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Bolinsky</p> <p>Summary: To add two additional student advisory committee members to the Board of Regents for Higher Education.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/29/2021</p> |
| <u>HB 6374</u> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: <u>Haskell</u>, <u>Turco</u>, <u>Flexer</u>, <u>Haddad</u>, <u>Maroney</u>)</p> <p>Summary: To (1) protect students who report being a victim or witness of sexual assault, stalking or violence from disciplinary action by an institution of higher education, and (2) establish a Council on Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey to approve sexual misconduct climate surveys for use by institutions of higher education in the state.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 02/03/2021</p> |
| <u>HB 6402</u> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: <u>Haskell</u>, <u>Turco</u>, <u>Flexer</u>, <u>Haddad</u>, <u>Maroney</u>)</p> <p>Summary: Would require the Office of Higher Education to conduct a study relating to higher education issues in Connecticut.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 02/09/2021; Public hearing held, 02/29/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HB 6403</u></p> | <p>AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER OR CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: <u>Haskell</u>, <u>Turco</u>, <u>Flexer</u>, <u>Haddad</u>, <u>Maroney</u>)</p> <p>Summary: Would require approval from the state House and Senate for the merger or closing of institutions within Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 02/09/2021; Public hearing held, 03/05/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 6406</u></p> | <p>AN ACT EXEMPTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FROM THE SALES TAX</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: <u>Haskell</u>, <u>Turco</u>, <u>Flexer</u>, <u>Haddad</u>, <u>Maroney</u>)</p> <p>Summary: To exempt services for workforce development and training from the sales tax.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 02/09/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 6442</u></p> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO BROADBAND</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Request of the Governor Pursuant to Joint Rule 9</p> <p>Summary: To implement the governor’s budget recommendations.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Energy and Technology, 02/11/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB 6461</u></p> | <p>AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE REGARDING THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (includes LAC members: <u>Haskell</u>, <u>Turco</u>, <u>Flexer</u>, <u>Haddad</u>, <u>Maroney</u>)</p> <p>Summary: To (1) implement the recommendations of the task force regarding the prevention and treatment of mental illness at institutions of higher education, (2) require health insurers to maintain explanations of benefits as confidential in certain circumstances, and (3) allow minors to receive more than six outpatient mental health treatment sessions without the consent of a parent or guardian.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 02/17/2021</p> |
| <u>SB 146</u> | <p>AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPORTS WAGERING, INTERNET GAMING, INTERNET LOTTERY AND INTERNET KENO</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Osten, Conley, Cheeseman, Johnson, Walker, De la Cruz, Dubitsky, Formica, France, Ryan, McCarty, Somers, Smith, Needleman, Nolan, Lanoue, Howard</p> <p>Summary: Would legalize sports betting and online gambling with plans to fund Connecticut’s debt-free community college program through iLottery revenue. Funds would go to the Pledge to Advance Connecticut, or PACT, program to cover the leftover costs of attending one of the state’s community colleges after students received federal, state, and institutional aid.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security, 01/13/2021</p> |
| <u>SB 192</u> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION TRUST FUNDS FOR FIRE TRAINING SCHOOLS, PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS, AND OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Formica</p> <p>Summary: To develop a state accreditation for fire training schools and review the same process for private occupational schools and other training programs to qualify such schools and programs under federal regulations to receive Connecticut Higher Education Trust Funds.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/22/2021</p> |
| <u>SB 193</u> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION RELATED TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Kelly</p> <p>Summary: To ensure that public institutions of higher education are meeting the workforce needs of the insurance industry.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/22/2021</p> |

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| <p>SB 654</p> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH-NEED CERTIFICATE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS AND ESTABLISHING THE “NUTMEG INTERNSHIP PROGRAM”</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Maroney</p> <p>Summary: To (1) designate certain certificate and training programs as high-need programs, (2) allow the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority to issue loans to individuals for the completion of such high-need certificate programs, (3) allow employers who pay such Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority loans on behalf of employees to claim a tax credit, (4) establish a mentorship program for students in the debt-free community college program who enroll in such high-need certificate programs, and (5) establish a state internship program.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 01/28/2021</p> |
| <p>SB 881</p> | <p>AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Request of the Governor Pursuant to Joint Rule 9</p> <p>Summary: This bill specifies no local or regional board of education may restrict or deny a student access to career and technical education, work-based learning, service learning, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college, AP, IB, or any other honors, advanced or accelerated course or program based solely or predominantly on such student's prior academic performance. Boards may establish prerequisites for courses or programs, however these prerequisites must be evidence-based indicators of student performance. Each board shall also seek to improve access to and diversity in such courses and programs, promote a challenging curriculum for all students and encourage all students to pursue a high-quality postsecondary education, including both degree and non-degree programs. This bill also requires each local or regional board of education to adopt a challenging curriculum policy for high school students in the school district, which shall include dual credit, dual enrollment, or early college courses.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, 02/11/2021</p> |
| <p>Governor Lamont’s State of the State and 2022-2023 Biennial Budget Addresses:</p> <p>State of the State Address Budget Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$44 billion two-year proposed budget. ● Budget Priorities: hiring more state troopers, improving education, workforce development, transportation, upgrading the state’s broadband capacity, and fighting COVID-19. | |

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

Current Status: The First Regular Session of the Maine State Legislature convened on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Statutory adjournment is June 16, 2021.

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| <p><u>LD 19</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO AMEND THE MAINE EDUCATION SAVINGS PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Daughtry</p> <p>Summary: This bill conforms elements of the Maine Education Savings Program to recent changes to federal law affecting so-called Section 529 plans. It also makes certain other needed updates to the program and makes permissive rather than mandatory the investment of program fund dollars by the Finance Authority of Maine in state-based financial institutions.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business, 01/11/2021</p> |
| <p><u>LD 21</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A GENERAL FUND BOND ISSUE TO PROVIDE A NEW DORMITORY FACILITY AT THE MAINE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS</p> <p>COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jackson</p> <p>Summary: The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, will be used for a new dormitory facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, 01/11/2021</p> |
| <p><u>LD 29</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO CONFORM THE MAINE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO THE FEDERAL EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1972</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Rafferty</p> <p>Summary: Amends the information relating to a request for demographic data that an apprenticeship agreement under the Maine Apprenticeship Program must contain. It brings the program into compliance with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 standards.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing, 01/11/2021</p> |

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| <p>LD 70</p> | <p>AN ACT TO ALLOW A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT WHO HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID-19 TO KEEP THE STUDENT IN THE STUDENT’S CURRENT GRADE LEVEL (EMERGENCY) COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fecteau</p> <p>Summary: This bill allows a parent or legal guardian of a student to request, by written notice to the principal of the student's school or to the superintendent of the school administrative unit in which the student attends school, that the student not be promoted to the next grade level or graduated due to the various effects of COVID-19 and the related pandemic on the student's learning during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. It requires the principal or superintendent to approve the request as long as the student's school can accommodate adding the student to the affected grade level.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 01/11/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 96</p> | <p>AN ACT TO CREATE FAIRNESS IN THE TREATMENT OF STUDENTS BY RETAINING STUDENTS WITH CERTAIN VACCINE EXEMPTIONS COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Faulkinham</p> <p>Summary: Current law allows a student covered by an individualized education plan who elected a philosophical or religious exemption from immunization on or before September 1, 2021 to continue to attend school after September 1, 2021 without being immunized as long as certain statements regarding acknowledgement of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize are provided. This bill extends that exemption to any student who elected a philosophical or religious exemption from immunization on or before September 1, 2021.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 01/11/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 117</p> | <p>AN ACT TO PRESERVE THE HEALTH CARE OF UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM RETIREES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Millett</p> <p>Summary: This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.</p> <p>This bill proposes to enact measures designed to preserve the health care of University of Maine System retirees.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing, 01/11/2021</p> |

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| <p>LD 119</p> | <p>AN ACT TO INCREASE FACULTY IN NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY AMENDING THE NURSING EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Meyer</p> <p>Summary: This bill amends the nursing education loan repayment program as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It extends eligibility to apply to individuals who are currently enrolled in master's or doctoral degree programs. 2. It specifies that applicants must indicate an intention to work as full-time nursing faculty in a nursing education program in the State, and increases that required commitment from 3 years to 5 years after acceptance into the nursing education loan repayment program. 3. It increases the maximum amount of loans eligible for repayment under the program from \$4,500 to \$30,000 for a master's degree and from \$6,000 to \$60,000 for a doctoral degree. <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business, 01/11/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 127</p> | <p>RESOLVE, TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Pouliot</p> <p>Summary: This resolve establishes a 2-year pilot program to provide grants for professional development in computer science instruction.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 01/19/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 134</p> | <p>AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM GRANT AWARD UNDER THE MAINE STATE GRANT PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Crockett</p> <p>Summary: Provides ongoing funds of \$10,000,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2021-22 to the Maine State Grant Program within the Finance Authority of Maine to increase the minimum grant award from \$1,000 to \$2,500.</p> <p>Also amends the law to specify that the minimum grant award under the program may not be less than \$2,500 if sufficient funds are appropriated for that purpose.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business, 01/19/2021</p> |
| <p><u>LD 144</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS AND REGIONS TO BOLSTER MAINE’S FUTURE WORKFORCE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fecteau</p> <p>Summary: This bill authorizes the issuance and use of up to \$20,000,000 in Maine Governmental Facilities Authority securities for capital improvements to career and technical education centers and regions.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 01/19/2021</p> |
| <p><u>LD 149</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO FACILITATE LICENSURE FOR CREDENTIALLED INDIVIDUALS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Cloutier</p> <p>Summary: This bill implements some of the recommendations of Resolve 2019, chapter 79 directing the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to form a working group to assess barriers to professional licensure for skilled individuals with foreign credentials and licensees of other states who apply for Maine licensure.</p> <p>It allows the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to exercise discretionary authority, after consultation with licensing entities, to waive documentation requirements for licensure submitted by applicants educated in or with relevant experience or licensure 5 in other jurisdictions, including other states, United States territories, foreign nations and foreign administrative divisions, as long as the waiver does not reduce the requisite standards of proficiency for the licensed profession or occupation.</p> <p>It allows the director to exercise discretionary authority to waive examination fees and license fees for applicants for licensure educated in or with relevant experience or licensure in other jurisdictions, 0 including other states, United States territories, foreign nations and foreign administrative divisions.</p> <p>It also allows the office, or a licensing board or commission within the office, to grant provisional licenses to applicants educated in or with relevant experience or licensure in other jurisdictions, including other states, United States territories, foreign nations and foreign administrative divisions. It provides the director with rule-making authority to implement these discretionary authorities.</p> |

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| | <p>It provides the director with the authority to adopt rules to define the term "jurisdiction" for licensing purposes to mean a state, a United States territory, a foreign nation or a foreign administrative division that issues a license or credential. It provides the director with the authority to accept funds from the Federal Government, from any political subdivision of the State or from any individual, foundation or corporation, to expend those funds for purposes consistent with the purposes of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 8003 and to provide grants to nongovernmental entities for purposes consistent with that law. Page 4 - 130LR0147(01) 1</p> <p>It also develops a process for licensure by endorsement for United States license 2 holders who meet certain criteria.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business, 01/19/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 255</p> | <p>AN ACT TO ENSURE STUDENT SUCCESS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Millett</p> <p>Summary: This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.</p> <p>This bill would make changes to the law to help ensure the success of students.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 01/27/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 261</p> | <p>RESOLVE, DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO STUDY TRUANCY TRENDS IN THE STATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND REDUCING TRANSPARENCY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Roberts</p> <p>Summary: This resolve directs the Department of Education to conduct a study on truancy trends in the State and develop recommendations for supporting school administrative units in increasing student attendance and reducing truancy and to submit a report with suggested legislation by January 4, 2022 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 01/27/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>LD 273</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO SUSTAIN THE DOCTORS FOR MAINE’S FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Zager</p> <p>Summary: Provides ongoing funds to the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 12103-A, which supports medical school scholarships for eligible students who attend a qualifying Maine-based medical school program and have a substantial connection to Maine.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business, 01/28/2021</p> |
| <p><u>LD 298</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A GENERAL FUND BOND ISSUE TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS AND REGIONS TO PREPARE STUDENTS TO JOIN MAINE’S WORKFORCE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fecteau</p> <p>Summary: The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$40,000,000, will be used to provide funds to make capital improvements to and purchase equipment for career and technical education centers and regions for high school students.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, 02/01/2021</p> |
| <p><u>LD 313</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO ADVANCE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN MAINE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Woodsome</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to create a process that allows all high school students, including freshmen and sophomores, to explore their interest in career and technical education. Beginning with a student's freshman year, hours in class will count toward the hourly requirement to enroll in career and technical education, which is currently 350 hours of class time. By allowing so-called "drop-in" students to try out different skill areas, the bill will enable the State to create a realistic picture of student interest and the programs needed to meet those interests and to develop a comprehensive program to fulfill workforce needs.</p> <p>The bill will authorize a thorough inventory of classes available across the State and an analysis of the need for more satellite programs and methods for meeting the goal of expanding satellite programs in high schools. The bill will also create a career and technical education business roundtable, where interested employers would identify their workforce needs now and in the future, including required skill sets, ensuring that</p> |

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| | <p>the State's career and technical education programs fit business needs and providing partners in on-the-job training.</p> <p>The bill will address existing barriers to expanding comprehensive career and technical education programs by developing a process to eliminate half-day career and technical education, which creates busing costs and interrupts instruction, and instead bring teachers to career and technical education students.</p> <p>The bill will also address the relevance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, courses in the career and technical education setting.</p> <p>The bill will recommend changes to the career and technical education certification process to address the shortage of career and technical education teachers by acknowledging skills demonstrated in a trade or profession.</p> <p>Overall, the bill will help to create multiple pathways for students to learn and demonstrate their knowledge in the career and technical education setting while creating programs that address the State's critical workforce shortage.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 02/04/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 325</p> | <p>AN ACT TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF “EDUCATION DISRUPTION” TO INCLUDE STATES OF EMERGENCY THAT LIMIT STUDENTS’ ACCESS TO ON-SITE EDUCATION FOR LONGER THAN 15 SCHOOL DAYS</p> <p>COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Millett</p> <p>Summary: This bill allows students whose access to on-site education is limited as a result of a state of emergency, such as that resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, to be classified as having experienced education disruption and eligible for school work recognition plans that will demonstrate achievement under Maine's system of learning results.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 02/04/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 326</p> | <p>AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LIFETIME TEACHING CERTIFICATES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fecteau</p> <p>Summary: This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to issue lifetime teaching certificates to teachers in the State who have maintained a teaching certificate and taught in the State for at least 20 years.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 02/04/2021</p> |

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| <p>LD 334</p> | <p>AN ACT TO HELP MAINE STUDENTS CATCH UP AND KEEP UP BY PROVIDING REMEDIAL AND COMPENSATORY ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO EDUCATION DISRUPTION COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Millett</p> <p>Summary: This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill, as emergency legislation, would establish methods, services and programs to help provide students with remedial and compensatory assistance in response to education disruption resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 02/04/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 425</p> | <p>RESOLVE, DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO ESTABLISH A STATE UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS (EMERGENCY)</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Curry</p> <p>Summary: This resolve directs the Department of Labor to create an unemployment compensation system for self-employed workers and independent contractors.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing, 02/09/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 429</p> | <p>AN ACT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS BY REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEES IN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): McCrea</p> <p>Summary: This bill requires each school administrative unit to establish a health and safety committee to coordinate planning and response to health and safety matters affecting students and staff of the school administrative unit. It requires these committees to prioritize planning and response to health and safety concerns associated with the outbreak of COVID-19 while there is in effect a state of emergency declared by the Governor due to COVID-19. The bill specifies that each committee must include teachers and other school employees, school administrators, school board members and parents of students.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 02/09/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>LD 453</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE WABANAKI TRIBES TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Newell</p> <p>Summary: This bill requires that at least one member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System be a member of the Wabanaki Tribes.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 02/11/2021</p> |
| <p><u>LD 504</u></p> | <p>RESOLVE, REGARDING CERTIFICATION FOR CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Sachs</p> <p>Summary: This resolve, which is a recommendation from the Working Group on Mental Health, directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend, no later than October 1, 2021, its guidelines for the mental health rehabilitation technician/community certification, also known as an MHRT/C certification, in order to allow an individual who has completed a 4-year postsecondary educational degree program or obtained a graduate degree in a mental health-related field to receive the MHRT/C certification notwithstanding any other guidelines for certification.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services, 02/17/2021</p> |
| <p><u>LD 515</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO CREATE NEW MODELS OF MAINE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Sylvester</p> <p>Summary: This bill requires the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council to coordinate the development of higher education programs and public-private partnerships to enhance higher education and employment opportunities in the State in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It directs the council to engage with the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, adult education programs, the Finance Authority of Maine, the Loring Development Authority of Maine and private sector stakeholders to develop proposals for a series of programs and initiatives to promote new models of manufacturing education and employment in the State.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 02/17/2021</p> |

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| <p>LD 516</p> | <p>RESOLVE, DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSES AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT EQUIVALENCIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fecteau</p> <p>Summary: This resolve directs the Department of Education to conduct a review of career and technical education courses available in the State and provide guidance into the number of contact hours and equivalent credits for each course as each course relates to the parameters for essential instruction under the laws governing the system of learning results.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 02/17/2021</p> |
| <p>LD 518</p> | <p>RESOLVE, DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW AND ASSESS EXISTING EDUCATIONAL MANDATES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Grohoski</p> <p>Summary: This resolve directs the Department of Education to review all current educational mandates imposed by the State and the process by which educational mandates are established and requires the Department of Education to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, no later than January 1, 2022, with a list of all educational mandates and recommendations on educational mandates and improvements for the process by which educational mandates are established. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit legislation on the subject of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.</p> <p>Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, 02/17/2021</p> |
| <p>Governor Mills’ 2021 State of the State/Budget Address</p> <p>State of the State/Budget Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BACK TO WORK BOND PROPOSAL: To accelerate Maine’s economic recovery, get people back to work and diversify Maine’s economy, Governor Mills also announced that, in the coming weeks, her Administration will present to the Legislature a “Back to Work” bond proposal. The proposal draws on Maine’s 10-year Strategic Economic Development Plan as well as recommendations from the Governor’s Economic Recovery Committee. The proposal includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expanding Broadband: \$30 million to expand broadband across Maine, building on the Governor’s successful efforts last year to secure \$15 million in new funding for broadband; ○ Developing the Workforce: \$25 million for equipment for Maine Career and Technical Education programs and a partnership with Maine’s Community College System to train skilled workers to fill jobs in high-growth industries; ○ Supporting Innovation in Heritage Industries: \$50 million for Maine farmers, foresters, and fishermen to increase local processing infrastructure, improve access to markets, and | |

invest in innovation to modernize and add value to products grown, caught, and cultured here in Maine;

- **Increasing Childcare:** \$6 million for grants and low interest loans to renovate, expand, or construct childcare facilities and increase the availability of childcare slots, with half of that money going to underserved communities in rural Maine.
- The Back to Work proposal will also include investments in roads and bridges, working lands and waterfronts, research and development, and energy efficiency.
- **MAINE CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM:** The governor announced the launch of a pilot of the Maine Career Exploration Program, a key recommendation of Maine’s 10-year Economic Development Plan in Franklin and Somerset counties to provide scholarships and paid internships for local students with local employers. Internships will be “in the trades, healthcare, and other fields.” The goal is to ensure that 100% of Maine students have the option for a six-month paid internship between their junior year of high school and one year after high school graduation.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATURE

Current Status: The First Regular Session of the Maine State Legislature convened on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Statutory adjournment is June 16, 2021.

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| <p><u>H.41</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO STUDENT DEBT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Office of the State Treasurer</p> <p>Summary: Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 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. The University of Massachusetts shall report the results of said pilot program, together with any recommendations regarding whether such a notice should be provided to additional students, to the clerks of the house and senate, who shall forward the same to the joint committee on higher education, not later than one year from the effective date of this act.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/06/2021</p> |
| <p><u>H.42</u></p> | <p>AN ACT REQUIRING FINANCIAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Office of the State Treasurer</p> <p>Summary: SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 2CCCCC the following section:- Section DDDDD. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Financial Literacy Trust Fund. The fund shall be administered by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education. The fund shall be credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) interest earned on such revenues; and (iii) funds from public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations to further financial education and professional development. Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and any money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.</p> <p>Annually and no later than October 1st, the commissioner shall report to the clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the fund's activity.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/06/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HD.105</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Durant, Whelan, McKenna, Howard, Ashe, Dooley, Williams, LaNatra, D’Emilia, DeCoste, Muradian, Ryan, Robertson, Elugardo, Kearney, Soter</p> <p>Summary: The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall authorize and assist in the implementation of curriculum on personal financial literacy in order to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to be self-supporting. The specific components of personal financial literacy covered in these courses shall include: understanding loans, borrowing money, interest, credit card debt, online commerce, questions around renting and buying a home, saving, investing, planning for retirement, banking, balancing a checkbook, state and federal taxes and charitable giving. These classes will start as early as in Kindergarten and run until 12th grade, matching up with mathematical or other relevant pedagogical curricula.</p> <p>The department will establish an advisory committee to implement and oversee such programs in schools.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/06/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.337</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPENSATION AND RIGHTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Howitt, Hill, McKenna, Dooley, Barrows, Muratore, Chan, DeCoste, Muradian, Mirra, Soter, Hendricks, Robertson, Livingstone</p> <p>Summary: A postsecondary institution shall not uphold any rule that prevents a college athlete from fully participating in intercollegiate athletics without penalty for receiving food, shelter, medical expenses, or compensation from a 3rd party as a result of the athlete’s name, image or likeness.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/20/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.395</u></p> | <p>AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FAIR AND EQUITABLE GROUP 4 RETIREMENT BENEFIT FOR POLICE OFFICERS WORKING ON MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION CAMPUSES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Tucker, Whelan, D’Emilia, Howitt, Finn, Chan</p> <p>Summary: SECTION 1. Section 3 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in line 297, after the word "Authority;" the following:- “any campus police officer employed at a Massachusetts state college, university, community college and the University of Massachusetts”</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Filed, 01/21/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.416</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO COLLEGE TUITION AND ADMISSIONS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Silvia, Hendricks</p> <p>Summary: Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:- 2 Section 37. In making decisions relating to admissions, scholarships and grants, any college, university, community college or junior college within the system of public institutions of higher education as set forth in section 5 of chapter 15A, shall identify and give priority to students or prospective students residing in the commonwealth: (1) whose biological parents are deceased or had their parental rights terminated due to abuse or neglect; and (2) who have been legally adopted by a blood relative within the third level of consanguinity or were assigned a permanent legal guardian by a court.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/21/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.482</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A TUITION FREE PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ultrino, Garry, Howard, Williams, Robertson, Argosky LeBoeuf, Barrett</p> <p>Summary: Section 19 of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:- The Board of Higher Education shall institute, in conjunction with the Board of Education, a program to allow any public school teacher or paraprofessional presently working in the Commonwealth to attend courses at public institutions of Higher Education in the Commonwealth at no tuition cost.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/22/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.464</u></p> | <p>AN ACT MAKING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION FREE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE STATE.</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Gentile, Malia</p> <p>Summary: Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, no tuition or mandatory curriculum fees shall be charged to any resident of the state at any Community College nor any State University or the University of Massachusetts. The Commonwealth, not the community colleges, State universities, or the University of Massachusetts, shall bear the cost of providing free public higher education for residents of the state.</p> <p>There shall be a program, subject to appropriation, of needs-based financial assistance, administered by the board of higher education, to provide full or partial scholarships for non-residents of the Commonwealth enrolled in and pursuing a</p> |

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| | <p>part-time or full-time program of higher education in any of the institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/22/2021</p> |
| <u>HD.626</u> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN GATEWAY CITIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Schmid, Silvia, Hendricks, Cabral</p> <p>Summary: Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the authorizations contained in this chapter may not be used to fund projects that fail to meet one of the following criteria: (a) construction of the project began prior to July 1, 2021; (b) the project is not located in a municipality that is or is adjacent to a gateway municipality, as defined by section 3A of chapter 23A of the General Laws, or (c) the project is located within a gateway municipality, as so defined, is within 2000 feet of such municipality’s city hall and is or will be within 500 feet of public transportation upon completion of the project.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/26/2021</p> |
| <u>HD.930</u> | <p>AN ACT PROHIBITING LICENSE REVOCATION FOR STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higgins, Vitolo, Lewis, Robinson, Whipps, J.P Lewis, Murray, Sabadosa, Ashe, Gentile, Lipper-Garabedian, Gouveia, Keefe, Barber, Uytterhoeven, Farley-Bouvier, Eldridge, Vargas, Doherty, Comerford, Sena, Domb</p> <p>Summary: Section 13 of chapter 30A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the last paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:- No agency, and no board of registration operating under the provisions of chapter 112, shall deny issuance of, revoke, or refuse to renew any license or professional or occupational certificate, registration or authority based on an individual’s default on an educational loan.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/29/2021</p> |
| <u>HD.1213</u> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Scanlon</p> <p>Summary: No applicants shall be required to take any standardized college entrance aptitude test to gain admittance to any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth, as defined in section V; provided that applicants may submit results from a standardized test for admissions purposes if they so choose.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/2/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HD.1398</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO INSTATE TUITION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lombardo</p> <p>Summary: Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of determining eligibility for in-state tuition rates and fees at public institutions of higher education, in the case of an individual who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States as those terms are defined under federal immigration law, the individual shall not be eligible for in8 state tuition.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/05/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.1435</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO EXPAND THE CAPACITY OF CAREER TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Moran, Sabadosa, Markey, Lewis, Capano, Minicucci, Fernandes, O’Day, Cabral, Barrows, Galvin, Day, Hawkins, Argosky LeBoeuf, Vargas, Donahue, Mark, Roy</p> <p>Summary: To provide for a program of capital investments for career and technical education programs and career and technical education regional schools. This would help investment in equitable access to public education and industry-relevant workforce. It would also help to fund replacement and renovation of school infrastructure to meet workforce demands of regional employers and increase equitable access to all students. Provides potential appropriations up to \$3,000,000 and advocates for the expansion of grants for regional vocational schools.</p> <p>SECTION 8. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, to meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 1, the state treasurer shall, upon receipt of a request by the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate, \$3,000,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth, as aforesaid, shall be designated on their face Commonwealth Career Technical Education Capacity Expansion Act of 2021, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not exceeding 30 years</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/05/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.1455</u></p> | <p>AN ACT IMPROVING GRADUATION RATES AT PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Garballey</p> <p>Summary: Section 9 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after subsection (gg), the following subsection:- (hh) develop and administer a policy requiring all public</p> |

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| | <p>institutions of higher education to provide flexibility in graduation requirements for students who have one or more diagnosed and documented intellectual or developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, and are enrolled in credit-bearing classes with the intent of earning a degree.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/08/2021</p> |
| <u>HD.1723</u> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WIRELESS IN SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Dykema, Diggs, Sabadosa, Gordon, Comerford, Fernandes</p> <p>Summary: The board shall develop best practices and guidance for the purchase and installation of wireless internet service in public institutions of higher education. In developing these guidelines, the board shall consider and prioritize practices that protect the health and safety of public institutions of higher education students and staff.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/10/2021</p> |
| <u>HD.1890</u> | <p>AN ACT TO ENSURE TUITION EQUITY FOR MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Moran, Madaro, DuBois, Vargas, Tucker, Ciccolo</p> <p>Summary: Section 9C(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of determining eligibility for in-state tuition rates and fees at state institutions of higher education in Massachusetts, any person admitted to such state institutions of higher education, other than a nonimmigrant alien, who has attended a high school in the commonwealth for 3 or more years and has graduated from a high school in the commonwealth or attained the equivalent thereof from an adult basic education program in the commonwealth, or is currently a student in a Massachusetts public higher education institution qualifying for in-state tuition under federal regulations, shall be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates and fees, at any state institution of higher education in the commonwealth.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/12/2021</p> |
| <u>HD.2104</u> | <p>AN ACT RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL COURSES IN WINE TASTING AT A QUALIFIED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fiola, Schmid, Kearney, McMurty, Soter</p> |

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| | <p>Summary: A qualified student may taste an alcoholic beverage, and both the student and the qualified academic institution in which the student is enrolled shall not be subject to punishment under sections 34 and 34A, if all of the following are met: the student tastes the beverage while enrolled in the institution, the academic institution has an established associate’s or bachelor’s degree in some sort of food or beverage industry, the tasting is simply for educational purposes, the alcoholic beverage remains in control of the instructor.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/12/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.2416</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A FINISH LINE GRANT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE COLLEGE COMPLETION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Garballey</p> <p>Summary: There shall be a Finish Line Grant 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.</p> <p>The funds for the program are meant to supplement and not supplant existing scholarship funds; funds for this program shall not be derived from existing financial aid programs the Commonwealth administers. The department shall provide the Joint Committee on Higher Education of the General Court a report analyzing the usage, achievements and costs of this program, together with recommendations for its future, no later than 120 days following the program’s first year of operation.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/17/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.2417</u></p> | <p>AN ACT PROVIDING RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING EXAMS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jack Patrick Lewis</p> <p>Summary: Draft in progress being worked on by House Counsel</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/17/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HD.2472</u></p> | <p>AN ACT REDUCING NON-IONIZING RADIATION SUCH AS WIRELESS FROM EARLY TO HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Duffy, Beatty</p> <p>Summary: There is a plethora of evidence that shows that exposure to wireless and electricity are tied to a myriad of health and legal challenges. Therefore, to the extent feasible, every public or independent institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and authorized to grant degrees pursuant to any general or special law shall eliminate exposures to man-made non-ionizing radiation known or likely to be harmful. To the extent feasible, every institution shall establish measures and take action to reduce exposures to man-made non-ionizing radiation which is (1) potentially harmful; (2) unintentional; or (3) of unknown effect</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/17/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD. 2525</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS AND COLLEGE CREDIT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Madaro, Robertson</p> <p>Summary: All public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth shall develop and adopt written policies to accept scores of 3,4, or 5 on advanced placement tests in order to award credits to students. These policies shall be posted on the institution’s website, specifically under the category of admission. The board of higher education shall annually review and audit these policies.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/17/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.2569</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE EDUCATION OF THE VETERANS OF MASSACHUSETTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Schmid, Xiarhos, Hendricks, Moran, Murray, Giannino, Hawkins</p> <p>Summary: The council shall develop and adopt a written policy requiring each public institution of higher education to offer and administer online courses free of charge to any Veteran of Massachusetts as defined by M.G.L. ch. 4, s.7, clause 43.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.2672</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL LITERACY COUNSELING</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jones, Gifford, Sullivan, D’Emilia</p> |

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| | <p>Summary: The board of higher education shall have the authority to mandate that each public higher education institution provide financial literacy counseling to accepted applicants of the institution relative to student loans and other expenses to students upon arriving on campus. The Board is further authorized to provide a College Financing Plan developed by the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the United States Department of Education to said accepted applicants of the institution. The College Financing Plan shall include estimated cost of attendance including tuition and fees, housing and meals, books and supplies, transportation and other education costs as well as grants and scholarships and work-study and loan options. The public institution of higher education may provide an electronic version of the College Financing Plan in a printable format. The board of higher education may promulgate regulations to carry out the purposes of this section.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.2678</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE EXPANSION OF THE VALEDICTORIAN TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jones, Gifford</p> <p>Summary: The program shall provide tuition and mandatory fee waivers to any resident of the commonwealth who has been designated as a valedictorian by a public or private high school within the commonwealth. The tuition and mandatory fee waivers shall be provided to a student for not more than four years following enrollment as a student at a qualifying public institution. If the student designated as a valedictorian does not utilize the valedictorian tuition and fee waiver, the tuition and fee waiver shall not be offered to the salutatorian. The commonwealth, not the institutions of public higher education, shall bear the cost of such tuition and fee waivers for Massachusetts valedictorians.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.2689</u></p> | <p>AN ACT EXPANDING VOTING ACCESS FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Uyterhoeven</p> <p>Summary: Any precinct containing an institution for higher education, as defined in Chapter 15C Section 3 of the general laws, with more than one thousand students, faculty or staff, who are eligible to register to vote in the precinct, shall designate a polling place within one-half mile of the institution for higher education. If a precinct contains a public institution for higher education, as defined in Chapter 15A, Section 5, the public institution for higher education, upon request from the election clerk, shall provide without charge to the municipality a facility for use as a polling place that meets all applicable requirements under Section 24 and as established by the Elections Division</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HD.2779</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE TRAINING OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN PTSD</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Arciero, Harrington, Garry</p> <p>Summary: The University of Massachusetts medical school shall develop a continuing education program for clinical and non-clinical counselors serving institutions within the system of public institutions for higher education on subjects like military and veteran psychology, deployment cycles, outreach strategies, PTSD and suicidal behaviors.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD. 2786</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF TAX CREDIT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Arciero, Kearney, Harrington</p> <p>Summary: By September 15 of each year, an individual shall submit an application to the department for the credit allowed under this subsection. The individual shall submit with the application an assurance that the individual will use any credit approved under this subsection for the repayment of the individual's undergraduate or graduate student loan debt or both as soon as practicable. The total amount of the credit claimed under this subsection shall be recaptured if the individual does not use the credit approved under this subsection for the repayment of the individual's undergraduate or graduate student loan debt or both within 2 years from the close of the taxable year for which the credit is claimed.</p> <p>By December 15 of each year, the department shall certify to the individual the amount of any tax credit approved by the department under this subsection, not to exceed \$2,500</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.2789</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Arciero, Devers, Kearney</p> <p>Summary: The authority shall establish a program for granting student loan forgiveness awards consistent with the provisions of this section for the purpose of alleviating the burden of federal student loan debt for recent college graduates in the commonwealth.</p> <p>To be eligible for such an award the applicant shall have graduated from a Massachusetts high school or been awarded a high school equivalency degree in the commonwealth. The awards granted will be deferred for a recipient who has</p> |

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| | <p>been granted a deferment or forbearance under the federal income-driven repayment plan.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p>HD.2882</p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING TUITION FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN MASSACHUSETTS</p> <p>Support(s): Tyler, Marty Walsh, Howard, Kerans, Kearney, Williams</p> <p>Summary: The section will be known as the “Massachusetts Promise Program” and is subject to the following rules and regulations: The DHE will administer the Program to eligible Massachusetts institutions and will establish a fund to provide a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees for Community Colleges course held in the fall, spring or summer semesters to low income and low-moderate income residents of the commonwealth who meet certain criteria.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p>HD.2894</p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO A LOAN FORGIVENESS TASK FORCE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jones, Gifford</p> <p>Summary: There shall be a special task force to review and report on the economic impact of loan forgiveness programs to ensure that college graduates stay, work, and build businesses in Massachusetts.</p> <p>The task force shall: (i) identify and review the state laws, regulations, and administrative directives that prescribe loan forgiveness; (ii) identify the key labor sectors that would best benefit from grants and fellowships within the commonwealth; (iii) require the department of labor and workforce development to submit reports to the legislature it obtains from banks and technology companies; and (iv) develop recommendations to establish legislative procedures to provide funding, regulate, and grant loan forgiveness to eligible applicants.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p>HD.3007 (HD.3015 HD.3072)</p> | <p>AN ACT CREATING HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, AUTISM, AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Haddad, Garballey, Giannino, D’Emilia, DiZoglio, O’Day, Barrett, Galvin,</p> <p>Summary: This bill seeks to provide inclusive educational opportunities for individuals with severe intellectual disabilities, severe autism spectrum disorders or other severe developmental disabilities in order to improve academic</p> |

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| | <p>achievement, develop employment independent living skills, and have the learning environment for all citizens.</p> <p>These individuals shall not be required to take any standardized college entrance aptitude test, have a high school diploma or its equivalent, meet minimum academic course requirements, meet minimum grade point average requirements, or obtain a passing score on the Statewide assessments utilized as a basis for competency determinations. Institutions of higher education in consultation with the Department of higher education and consistent with the purposes of this section, may also establish course selection guidelines to help ensure that these individuals receive guidance in selecting courses that are appropriate to their individual strength needs preferences and interests.</p> <p>Individuals participating in higher education pursuant to subsection (a) shall have access to and be included with non-disabled students in all academic and non-academic opportunities.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.3204</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOLS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Roy, Lipper-Garabedian, Murray, Gentile, Soter, Dykema, McMurty, Day, Nguyen, Vitolo, Minicucci, Farley-Bouvier, Sabadosa, Vargas, Honan, Stanley, McGonagle, Doherty</p> <p>Summary: All public institutions of higher education shall develop written policies and procedures for accepting for the purposes of course credit to satisfy degree requirements certain scores on the College Board’s advanced placement examinations, or International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. All policies and procedures governing the award of credit shall be posted on the institution’s website under the category of admission, which the institution shall update as necessary to reflect and changes in policies and procedures.</p> <p>This bill also establishes a Massachusetts Office of College in High School which will help high schools to make sure they are offering a coherent sequence of courses that allow students to earn a high school diploma and some sort of college credit and/or industry recognized credential for work readiness.</p> <p>There will also be a college in high school program started which will be open to all students and which will establish college level courses in high schools which will be taught by postsecondary instructors. The courses will award credits which will be able to be transferred to a student’s college of their choice upon graduation from high school.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/26/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.3222</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO REPORTING EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Vargas, Barber, Minnicucci, Gonzalez, Ciccolo, Sabadosa, Howard</p> |

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| | <p>Summary: This bill maintains that the department of higher education shall annually collected annually report online in a public manner the following: the number and percentage of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students who are completing college level math and English by the end of their first Academic Year; the number and percentage of first-time degree-seeking students are completing their expected number of credits in their first year; the number and percentage of full-time, first time, degree-seeking students who are returning to the same institution, or are transferring to another institution the year after initial enrollment and the number and percentage of students at a college as either first time or transfer students who, graduate, transfer, attain 30 credits and or remain enrolled, within 6 years after enrolling at a college I see their first time or transfer students.</p> <p>The department will also annually collect data comparing the percentages of white students and Black students and data comparing the percentages for white students and Hispanic students, As well as data comparing the percentages of male and female students, and data comparing the percentages for Pell Grant recipients and Pell Grant and ineligible students.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.3562</u></p> | <p>AN ACT CREATING FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY REDUCING UNNECESSARY STATE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES</p> <p>Sponsor: Garballey</p> <p>Summary: Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 15C and inserting in place thereof the following section: - "Section 15C. Each institution within the system of public higher education shall annually produce audited financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, generally accepted auditing standards, and generally accepted government auditing standards. The statements shall be in accordance with procedures for timeliness and for disclosures as proscribed by the office of the state comptroller and approved by the state auditor. The statements shall include all expenditures and revenues from all appropriated and non appropriated funds and be filed with the governor, office of state comptroller, the board of higher education, the house and senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on higher education no later than October 15 each year."</p> <p>Also included in this bill are allowances to public institutions of higher education to elect to pay its payroll tax from either local funds or its state appropriations, and foundations established for the benefit of public colleges and universities may enter into any lease agreements permitted by law.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/19/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HD.3713</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO EMPLOYER STUDENT LOAN CONTRIBUTION</p> <p>Sponsor: Mark</p> <p>Summary: Section 1: (a) An employer shall be permitted a deduction against the taxes imposed pursuant to chapter 63 of the General Laws for student loan payment assistance made to employees. The deduction allowed under this section applies only to student loans incurred by a qualified employee while attending an accredited institution of higher education, for principal or interest on a qualified education loan, as defined by sec. 221 of the Code. (b) The employer is permitted a tax deduction not to exceed \$3,600.00 per qualified employee in any tax year for which the employer makes student loan payment assistance directly to the employee or to the qualified loan holder on behalf of the employee. (c) Monies received by the employee from the employer for student loan payment assistance shall not be considered taxable income under Ch. 62, Sec 3 of the General Laws.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/19/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.3919</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO TUITION TAX CREDIT</p> <p>Sponsor: Golden</p> <p>Summary: A credit shall be allowed against the tax liability imposed by this chapter for in an amount up to 20 percent of the cost of qualified tuition and fees for higher education. The credit under this subsection shall be allowed for the taxable year in which the expenses are incurred; provided, that said credit shall not exceed \$5,000 in any tax year and any excess credit may be applied over the following seven subsequent tax years.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/19/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.3940</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO ONLINE EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE CREDIT</p> <p>Sponsor: Golden</p> <p>Summary: The department of higher education shall conduct a study evaluating the availability of online courses that are offered as part of a dual enrollment program hosted by a certified institution of higher education located in the commonwealth. The study shall provide recommendations to expand the availability of online courses in the commonwealth. If in conducting the study, the department determines that there have been any disproportionate impacts to the municipalities described in clause (iv) of subsection (b), the department shall consider targeted measures to expand the availability of such courses in those areas, and shall provide such recommendations in the study</p> |

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| <p><u>HD.3964</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO VETERAN TUITION</p> <p>Sponsor: Wallis, DuBois, Moran</p> <p>Summary: The Board of Higher Education shall include institutions that provide vocational training in its scope of administration as higher education. The Board will be tasked with the creation of a centralized and state-wide system for connecting federal funding benefits for individuals with state-wide institutions of higher education. They will also develop a “one-step” higher educational access portal which will be publicly available.</p> <p>For the purposes of paying tuition, the Board of Higher Education shall consider the following veteran statuses as in-state residents, regardless of actual domicile:</p> <p>Any individual that has been discharged from a branch of the armed forces with one of the following discharge classifications: 1. Honorable discharged. 2. General discharge under honorable conditions. 3. Other than honorable discharge.</p> <p>Any dependent that has been transferred GI Bill benefits from a parent that was in the armed forces shall be considered an in-state resident.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/19/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HD.4047</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE “MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION ACT”</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Gonzalez, Devers, McKenna, Williams, Ramos</p> <p>Summary: Any private or public higher education institution shall not uphold any rule or limitation disallowing student athletes from earning compensation due to use of the student’s name, image or likeness. These earnings will not affect the student’s scholarship opportunities. Similarly an institution, athletic association, conference or other organization with authority over student athletes will not prevent student athletes from obtaining professional representation in relation to contracts or legal matters. A scholarship will not be revoked because a student athlete has sought external legal counsel.</p> <p>A student athlete must disclose any compensation contract for their name, likeness, or image to a representative of their institution.</p> <p>Each institution will establish an injured athlete fund to provide an athlete who has sustained a career-ending injury compensation upon their graduation.</p> <p>At the conclusion of each school year, each institution shall take 15 percent of the revenue earned from ticket sales to all athletic events and divide and pay such amounts to all student-athletes.</p> <p>There shall be established within the department of higher education by the chancellors of each state university in Massachusetts and the community colleges, the higher education athlete name, image and likeness working group. The</p> |

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| | <p>working group shall examine and review existing state university of Massachusetts athletic bylaws, state and federal laws and national athletic association bylaws regarding a community college's or an institution's athletes' use of an athlete's name, image and likeness for 4 of 13 compensation. The department shall provide necessary secretariat and support services to the working group.</p> <p>This bill also outlines what certifications are required of a person acting as a student's athletic agent.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/19/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.120</u></p> | <p>AN ACT PROVIDING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN THE COMMONWEALTH</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Chang-Diaz</p> <p>Summary: Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, any person admitted to a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth who has attended High School in the Commonwealth for three or more years and has graduated from high school in the Commonwealth or attained equivalent thereof, shall be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates and fees, and shall be eligible on the same terms as other person's for state-funded financial assistance, at the University of Massachusetts or any other State University or state college or Community College in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/13/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.234</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF LIBRARY SCIENCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor: Feeney</p> <p>Summary: The board of higher education, subject to appropriation, shall establish a public librarian incentive program, for the purpose of providing grants to public librarians presently working in a public library in the Commonwealth, who are planning to attend, or attending, an institution of higher education within the Commonwealth, or partner institutions under New England Board of Higher Education's Regional Student Program, to earn a Master of Library Science degree. Said board of higher education shall establish rules and regulations for the program, including the levels of academic, leadership, extracurricular, and other achievement needed to qualify for the grants. Based upon such rules and regulations, the board of higher education shall award a grant 2 of 2 equal to full tuition to public librarians who apply from each public library and who qualify for the Master of Library Science assistance program.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/26/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>SD.258</u></p> | <p>AN ACT PROTECTING STUDENTS ABROAD</p> <p>Sponsor: DiDomenico</p> <p>Summary: Massachusetts secondary and postsecondary institutions providing student services abroad shall prioritize health, safety and security in program development, implementation and management of study abroad programs. They will do this by conducting risk assessments for program sites and activities, maintaining written emergency plans and protocols specific to the destination and identifying local authorities and networks and resources accessible to any student injured, assaulted or subject to a criminal act while studying abroad. These plans and reviews will be available to the students upon request and prior to travel.</p> <p>Staff will be trained to respond to student health, safety and security concerns. Institutions will file by November 1 of each year a report on its programs including such things as: deaths of program participants, accidents and illnesses, sexual assaults and crimes. This will be published on the website of the Department of Higher Education in the commonwealth.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/26/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.263</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ENHANCING THE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES OF EXPECTANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor: DiDomenico, Malia</p> <p>Summary: The department, after consulting with relevant state agencies and community partners shall: (i) publish to its website a model of expectant and parenting student policy and encourage all districts to develop their own expectant and parenting students policies that align with this model; and (ii) compile and post on its website a list of resources, best practices and research for schools to use to help expectant and parenting students stay in school and to increase graduation rates for expectant and parenting students. These materials shall be incorporated into the training of expectant and parenting student liaisons, as described in subsection (d). The department shall update the model plan and the list of resources, best practices and research at least every 3 years</p> <p>Each public school with students in grade 7 or higher that is required to have an expectant and parenting student liaison shall identify and train a liaison, as defined under section 22 of chapter 76, no later than September 1, 2023. No later than September 1, 2023, each public school with students in grade 7 or higher shall have and shall file with the department of elementary and secondary education an expectant and parenting student policy. No later than September 1, 2023, the department of elementary and secondary education shall specify a method for</p> |

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| | <p>districts and schools to report the information required by subsection (e) of section 22 of chapter 76.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/26/202</p> |
| <p><u>SD.291 (HD.3130)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO ADVANCE PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS</p> <p>Sponsor: Moore, Kane, Haggerty</p> <p>Summary: Not later than on September 1, 2021, will a score of three, four, and five on College Board AP placements be accepted for credit to satisfy degree requirements by all public institutions of higher education. The department of higher education shall determine what tracks (major, minor elective, general education requirements) the credits of each examination can be used towards. By September 1, 2021 the board of higher education and all public universities will publish these requirements on their website.</p> <p>The board of higher education shall audit these posted regulations annually.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 2/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.298</u></p> | <p>AN ACT SUPPORTING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Comerford, Lewis, Murray, Finegold, Stanley, Moore, Kane</p> <p>Summary: Commencing August 1, 2022, a public or private institution of higher education that issues student identification cards shall include on the student identification cards the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Crisis Text Line, and the school’s campus police or security telephone number or, if the school does not have a campus police or security telephone number, the local nonemergency telephone number.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/27/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.324 (HD.3003)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT PROTECTING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT INFORMATION</p> <p>Sponsor: Moore, Oliveira, Giannino, Sabadosa</p> <p>Summary: Section 22. Public institutions of higher education, as set forth in section 5 of chapter 15A, and municipally owned institutions of higher education, shall not be required to produce education records, including information designated by the public institution of higher education as directory information, as defined under the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act, 20 U.S.C. section 1232 (g). This section shall not apply to requests from federal, state, or municipal agencies.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.410 (HD 1224)</p> | <p>AN ACT COMMITTING TO HIGHER EDUCATION THE RESOURCES TO INSURE A HEALTHY PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Garballey, Mark, Tomb, Nguyen, Sabadosa, Murphy, Scanlon, Capano, Duffy, Lewis, Madaro, Chandler, Malia, Puppolo, Gentile, Barrett, O’Day, Howard, Cabral, Higgins, Uyeterhoeven, DiZoglio, Argosky LeBoeuf, Farley-Bouvier, Owens, Doherty, Santiago, Carey, Ciccolo, Vitolo, Robertson, Stanley, Linsky, Chan, Soter, Cahill, Comerford, Crighton, Keenan, Moore, Tucker, Rogers, Murray, LaNatra.</p> <p>Summary: This bill sets forth the intention of the general court to ensure fair and adequate funding for the Commonwealth public institutions of higher education by assuring that was total appropriation to fund all colleges and universities equals, at minimum, The purse you didn't amount of funding in effect in fiscal year 2001, as adjusted for inflation and further adjusted for changes in student population and to recognize those institutions fixed-costs, with the appropriation maintained at that level thereafter. The annual budget request for the public institutions of higher education shall be determined by the council and the secretary in accordance with this section for the University of Massachusetts, the State University system, the community college system, and needs-based financial assistance administered by the council under section 9B.</p> <p>To achieve equity for students and workers, the council shall allocate State Appropriations to individual public colleges and universities in a manner which enhances support for campuses with greater percentages of low-income students. it shall also establish tuition and fees in order to allow students to graduate debt-free. It shall emphasize full-time over part-time employment as well as fair wages and benefits for all adjunct faculty and staff.</p> <p>For the fiscal years 2022 through 2026, no tuition and fees shall increase for students enrolled at public institutions of higher education in any fiscal year where the appropriation for public institutions of higher education is at least the amount requested by the council.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/29/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.421 (HD.1748)</p> | <p>AN ACT IMPROVING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Comerford, Garballey, Tucker</p> <p>Summary: The department of higher education shall review programs of financial aid for students attending public institutions of higher education in the commonwealth, including grants, tuition waivers and loan programs. Based on the review, the department shall make recommendations, including legislation, for comprehensive redesign and reform of the financial aid system to increase student access to higher education, improve affordability of higher education for students</p> |

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| | <p>and families, and reduce opportunity and achievement gaps among students, particularly for students of color and disadvantaged populations.</p> <p>The goals will include: a) consolidating multiple overlapping assistance programs to improve efficiency and reduce duplication, b) reducing the burden of the application process and improving transparency, predictability and ease of applying for financial aid, c) lessening administrative costs, d) strengthening the ability of the general court to monitor and appropriate funds provided for student financial assistance.</p> <p>Section 2. The department of higher education shall explore the feasibility of and prepare a plan for all graduates of high schools in the commonwealth to have available to them a) free application processes for public institutions of higher education and b) automatic admission to a public community college.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/29/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.422 (HD.1746)</p> | <p>AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION AND FEE WAIVERS FOR ADOPTED FOSTER CHILDREN</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Garballey, Vargas, Comerford</p> <p>Summary: SECTION 1. The first sentence of the eighth paragraph of section 19 of chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the word “state-supported”.</p> <p>SECTION 2. The first sentence of the ninth paragraph of section 19 of chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the word “provide” the following word:- full</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/11/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.426 (HD.1148)</p> | <p>AN ACT TO GUARANTEE DEBT-FREE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Higgins, Robinson, Owens, Lewis, Duffy, Murray, Lewis, Malia, Gentile, Howard, Gonzales, Hawkins, Keefe, Barber, Eldridge, Brady, Comerford, O'Connor, Sena, Nguyen, Vitolo, Sabadosa, Fernandes, Capano, Gouveia, Garballey, Cabral, O’Day, Uyterhoeven, Argosky LeBoeuf Ciccolo, Madaro, Moore, O’Connor</p> <p>Summary: This bill is a declaration of the Commonwealth to guarantee free public higher education as a right for all residents. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, the board shall create a grant program to pay the equivalent of tuition and mandatory fees to an eligible student at any Massachusetts Public college or university, or certificate, vocational or training program at a public institution.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/29/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>SD.445</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO REQUIRE DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS</p> <p>Sponsor: Lewis</p> <p>Summary: The board of higher education shall require each institution to maintain a written conflict-of-interest policy that is designed to eliminate or minimize potential conflicts of interest that may arise for any faculty or staff member that in the course of their academic work, or as a result of his or her specific academic expertise, develops a financial relationship with any entity other than their primary employer or a government agency.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/31/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.468</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDENT TUITION RECOVERY FUND</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lewis, Barrett, Eldridge</p> <p>Summary: Chapter 12 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 11N thereof the following new section:- There shall be a Student Tuition Recovery Fund established and administered by the attorney general. The fund shall fully reimburse all persons injured, who may recover from the fund an amount not to exceed their actual economic loss sustained. The attorney general shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to administer the fund.</p> <p>Under this the AG may pursue a lender, holder, guarantee agency or the USDOE for the full or partial cancellation or discharge of student loan obligations to relieve students of economic loss and thereby reduce the liability of the fund.</p> <p>The attorney general shall make an accounting at the end of each year. If at the end of any year, the accounting indicates that the fund contains \$5,000,000 or more, then during the next year an assessment may not be made against the schools. If the money in the fund is insufficient to satisfy duly authorized claims, the attorney general may reassess the schools as necessary, in addition to the annual assessment, and the schools shall pay the additional amounts assessed.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/01/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.470 (HD.946)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO INCREASE STUDENT ACCESS TO CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS WHICH ARE ALIGNED WITH REGIONAL LABOR MARKET NEEDS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lewis, Lipper Garabedian, Lewis, Gobi, Cronin, Brady, O’Connor, Lovely, Gifford, Keenan, Tumilty, Eldridge, Muratore, Sabadosa, Markey, Capano, Fernandes, O’Day, Barrows, Day, Moran, Hawkins, Argosky LeBoeuf, Donahue, Mark, Ciccolo</p> |

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| | <p>Summary: An amendment to define “Career technical education” in the same way as vocational-education pursuant to section 1 of Chapter 74.</p> <p>There shall be established within the department of elementary and secondary education an office of career technical education which will be under the management of the deputy commissioner of career technical education. The office shall promote and support with available resources innovative and collaborative career technical education demonstration programs.</p> <p>The office shall develop credentials for students graduating from high quality career technical education programs in applied knowledge, effective relationships, and workplace skills as described in the federal Employability Skills Framework</p> <p>The office shall collaborate with recognized industry credential providers such as a recognized industry credential provider to develop state-customized credentials to measure career readiness through skill assessments appropriate to each tier of career technical education.</p> <p>The office shall consider the use of the 21st Century Skills for Workplace Success Credential including validation of basic competencies prior to participation in externships or similar things. The office shall also support the use of Industry Recognized Credentials. The office will engage in statewide data sharing agreements with credential providers to evaluate effectiveness.</p> <p>The office shall encourage and work to increase the use of articulation agreements with community colleges and public universities and other dual credit programs to allow career technical education students to earn credit and stacked credentials that lead to an associate’s degree.</p> <p>Any comprehensive high school shall have access to a minimum of 1 career technical education course or an approved career technical education internship.</p> <p>Section 3: There shall hereby be established a commission to be known as the Career Technical Education Funding Commission.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/29/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.601</u></p> | <p>AN ACT PROTECTING STUDENTS AND INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY AT MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Kennedy</p> <p>Summary: No state scholarship funds under this section, any other section of this chapter, or other 4 state student financial aid however provided, shall be made available to, or on behalf, of any student enrolled in any postsecondary educational</p> |

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| | <p>institution which the board of Higher Education determines does not meet certain requirements such as graduation rates, and a three year cohort detail rate less than 20 percent. The board of Higher Education shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this paragraph.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/03/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.602</p> | <p>AN ACT INVESTING IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Kennedy</p> <p>Summary: Section 2 (e) of Chapter 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended in line 117 by inserting after the word “hours” the following: - “; or a faculty member who teaches the equivalent of at least two three or more- credit courses per semester, or four three or more- credit courses per calendar year at one or more of the public institutions of higher education in the state, as set forth in Section 5 of Chapter 15A, including a division of continuing education, regardless of funding source, including but not limited to subsidiary account CC, and regardless of the term of employment or participation or membership in a retirement system or plan; provided, that the commonwealth, not the public higher education institutions, shall bear the cost.”</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/3/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.625 (HD.3712)</p> | <p>AN ACT ENSURING STUDENTS’ ACCESS TO ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Chandler, Argosky LeBoeuf, Khan, Sabadosa, Moore, Robinson, Gonzalez, Minicucci, Howard</p> <p>Summary: 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.</p> <p>Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an institution of higher education from withholding a student's diploma or degree due to that student's failure to pay any loan payments, fines, fees, tuition, or other expenses owed to the institution.</p> <p>This section shall apply to all postsecondary institutions.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/19/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>SD.670</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO VETERANS' EDUCATION TUITION SYSTEM (VETS)</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Boncore, Schmid</p> <p>Summary: Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any person admitted to a public institution of higher education who is a veteran as defined in clause Forty-third of section 7 of chapter 4 or who is armed forces personnel or who is a member of the National Guard shall be eligible for a full waiver of all tuition and fees for not more than 150 credit hours at such institution immediately upon establishing residency in the commonwealth.</p> <p>No person who qualifies for a waiver of tuition and fees under any other provision of this chapter shall be denied any waiver as a result of that person's eligibility under this paragraph. An eligible individual shall provide the public higher education institution of higher education with proof of status as a veteran, armed forces personnel or membership in the National Guard. The waiver recipient may 2 of 2 attend full-time or part-time and the benefit may be used for study at the undergraduate or graduate levels.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/4/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.703 (HD.2978)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO PROVIDE FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION ADJUNCT FACULTY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Jehlen, Scanlon, Lewis, Gentile, Howard, Uyterhoeven, Brady, Mark, Whipps, Capano, Sabadosa, Day, Howard, Hawkins, Higgins, Santiago, Argosky LeBoeuf, Farley-Bouvier, Garballey, Uyterhoeven, Brady</p> <p>Summary: 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 of the public institutions of higher education, shall be considered an employee eligible for membership in the state employees retirement system and shall earn creditable service for such time.</p> <p>In the case of part-time faculty employed at one or more of the public institutions of higher education, the full salary and wages received for teaching credit courses at one or more of the public institutions of higher education, shall be regarded as regular compensation and shall be included in the salary on which deductions are to be paid to the annuity savings fund.</p> <p>Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary all part time or non-tenure track faculty members shall contribute to the SMART PLAN, shall, subject to collective bargaining, receive equal pay with that of full-time non-tenure track faculty, shall receive priority consideration for part-time and non-tenure and tenure track teaching assignments. Nothing in this act shall be construed to either limit or reduce salaries, benefits or hiring rights in existence at</p> |

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| | <p>any public institution of higher education at the time this legislation passes into law as provided in an applicable bargaining agreement or otherwise.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/04/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.744 (HD.2980)</p> | <p>AN ACT TO ENSURE FAIR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION WORKPLACES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Mark, Capano, Sabadosa, Lewis, Gentile, Hawkins, Higgins, Argosky LeBoeuf, Garballey, Uytterhoeven, Brady,</p> <p>Summary: Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, full time and part-time faculty and staff at a public institution of higher education, as set forth in section 5 of this chapter, their spouses and their dependent children shall be eligible for a tuition and mandatory fee credit for undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs or courses at 3 of 3 public institutions of higher education; provided, that the commonwealth, not the public higher education institutions, shall bear the cost. The value of the tuition and mandatory fee credit shall be adjusted annually to ensure the value of said credit is worth no less than 100 percent of the total tuition and mandatory fee charges for the covered courses or programs. The board of higher education shall establish guidelines governing the implementation of this tuition and mandatory fee credit program. For the purposes of this section, full-time and part-time faculty and staff shall include employees of a division of continuing education and faculty members who teach the equivalent of at least two three-or-more-credit courses per semester, or four three-or-more-credit courses per calendar year at one or more of the public institutions of higher education</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.762</p> | <p>AN ACT TO PROTECT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PROVIDE EMERGENCY AID IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 COVID-19 related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Timilty</p> <p>Summary: From the effective date of this act until the termination of the governor’s March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency, any public or private institution of higher education, or any officer or employee of such an institution, that develops, manufactures, tests or distributes personal protective equipment to provide assistance in response to the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, or the state of emergency shall not be liable in a suit for damages as a result of any act or omission in developing, manufacturing, testing or distributing the personal protective equipment, or resulting from the administration to or the use by an individual, unless the act or omission constitutes willful, wanton or reckless conduct.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/05/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>SD.785</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CREDITABLE SERVICE FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES</p> <p>Sponsor: Timilty</p> <p>Summary: Any faculty member or professional employee of any public institution of higher education who is a member of the state employees retirement system and who has received or receives a leave or leaves of absence without pay approved by the employing institution to accept a prestigious award, fellowship, scholarship or other special assignment opportunity that benefits both the individual and the employing institution of public higher education, may, before any retirement becomes effective, establish up to two years of such service as creditable service for the purpose of determining his retirement allowance pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (a) of subdivision (2) of section 5 of Chapter 32. Eligibility for said creditable service 2 of 2 shall be conditioned upon payment into the annuity savings fund of the state employees retirement system of an amount equal to the contributions he would have otherwise paid into the retirement system for said period or periods of service based upon the salary he was receiving prior to the commencement of his leave or leaves of absence together with regular interest thereon. Such payment shall be made in one sum or installments as the state board of retirement shall prescribe.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/05/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD. 973 (HD.1439)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO PROVIDE PATHWAYS FOR CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS</p> <p>Sponsor: Chandler, Doherty, Lewis, Puppolo, Brady, Lewis, Moore, Argosky LeBoeuf, Ultrino, Gentile, Murray, Moran, Sabadosa, Capano, Lawn, Ryan, Malia, Oakley, Owens, Scanlon, Cabral, Rogers, Hawkins, DuBois, Eldrige, Ashe, Biele, Consalvo, Moran</p> <p>Summary: The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHSS) along with the Department of Public Health, and other relevant Massachusetts healthcare collectives shall develop a comprehensive strategic plan for reducing expected Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) labor shortages by creating education and training programs at the scale required and matching those programs with clinical slots and employment opportunities with health care providers across the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Also included in this bill is the mandate that EOHHS shall, within six months of the effective date of this act, fund, establish and implement an Incumbent Health Care Worker CNA Certification Pilot Program (the Pilot) to demonstrate the impact of a program for work-based learning programs that offer paid training of</p> |

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| | <p>incumbent health care workers with limited access to current CNA certification training and difficulty attending traditionally scheduled classes while fulfilling their current work responsibilities. Such Pilot shall include state funding and/or supplemental provider rates that offset employer’s cost of providing this training and that shall be utilized to offer paid training opportunities. The executive office will share findings about the efficacy of this pilot.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/09/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1026 (HD.1703)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Duffy, Lesser</p> <p>Summary: Development of the Massachusetts Workforce Opportunity Scholarship. The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Aid (OFSA) shall administer the Massachusetts Workforce Opportunity Scholarship program for students seeking an associate degree, certificate, or diploma from an eligible postsecondary institution if they are eligible.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements include: enrollment in an eligible postsecondary program within five years of graduation (not including time spent in the military), from a high school in Massachusetts or GED or HiSET diploma. Students receiving such a scholarship must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or above. Scholarship participants shall participate in mentoring and community service programs under rules promulgated by the OFSA. The total scope of the scholarship at a MA. public two-year institutions shall be the cost of tuition and mandatory fees.</p> <p>The OSFA and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education shall provide assistance to the general court by researching and analyzing data concerning the scholarship program created under this part, including, but not limited to, student success and scholarship retention. The OSFA shall report its findings annually to the joint education committee of the 64 senate and house of representatives by March 15.</p> <p>The Auditor of the Commonwealth shall review and study the Massachusetts Workforce Opportunity Scholarship program to determine the effectiveness of the program. The study shall be done in the third year of the program and every four years thereafter. The auditor shall report the findings and conclusions of the study to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the members of the joint education committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/10/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>SD.1295</u></p> | <p>AN ACT REQUIRING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE UNIFORM FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION TO ACCEPTED APPLICANTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lesser, Ashe, Rausch</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes that 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 applicants decision to enroll in the institution of higher education.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/15/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1296</u></p> | <p>AN ACT PROMOTING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION BEGINNING AT BIRTH</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lesser</p> <p>Summary: In order to encourage every child in Massachusetts to seek higher education and to encourage residents of Massachusetts to stay in the Commonwealth, there shall be established and set on the books a program for investment by the Commonwealth in the future college education of all newly born residents. The Commonwealth shall deposit in a separate account to be maintained by the Massachusetts education financing Authority the sum of \$5,000 for each child born in Massachusetts to Massachusetts residents. This will be accessible for use by each child for payment used for admission to an institution of higher education in Massachusetts.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/15/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1298</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX DEDUCTION FOR DONATIONS TO PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lesser</p> <p>Summary: Paragraph (a) of part B of section 3 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2016 official edition, is amended by inserting after subparagraph (19) the following subparagraph:- (20) An amount donated to a public institution of higher education foundation, as defined by section 5 of chapter 15A.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/15/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1321</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO FINANCIAL LITERACY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Kennedy</p> <p>Summary: The department shall develop standards and objectives on personal financial literacy, for grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive, within the existing mathematics, social sciences, technology, business, or other curricula where teachers have the capacity to teach financial literacy for implementation by the</p> |

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| | <p>start of the 2022-2023 school year. The department may consult with private, nonprofit, or other government institutions in order to identify and offer information relative to this curricula. The department may apply for any federal, state, or other funding, including funding available through the Financial Literacy Trust Fund, as established by chapter 10, as amended by chapter 14 of the acts of 2011.</p> <p>Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the advisory committee established under subsection (b) of section 200 of chapter 139 of the acts of 2012 shall also conduct a study on additional current programs on financial literacy being offered in the commonwealth for grades pre-kindergarten to 12, inclusive, and the cost, to individual schools and school districts, of offering said programs. The advisory committee shall submit the results of this study to the clerks of the senate and the house who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint committee on education on or before August 31, 2022.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/16/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.1372 (SD.2273, HD. 2523, HD.4065)</p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO MILITARY SPOUSE-LICENSURE PORTABILITY, EDUCATION AND ENROLLMENT OF DEPENDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Velis, Stanley, DeCoste, Xiarhos, Eldridge, Pease, Moore, Timilty, Campbell, Blais, Puppolo, Hendricks, Robertson, Lipper-Garabedian, Whipps, Haggerty, Walsh, Farley-Bouvier, Xiarhos, Gifford, Fiola, Tucker, Ferguson, Howitt, LaNatra, Soter, McGonagle, Stanley, Gordon, Capano, Gentile</p> <p>Summary: The implementation of “Purple Star Campus”. Which means that the Department of Higher Education shall designate a school district campus as a Purple Star Campus if the campus applies and qualifies for the designation. They must do things such as to designate a staff member as a military liaison to identify military connected students on campus as help design appropriate campus services for such students as well as design an easily navigable website section dedicated to these students.</p> <p>A military-connected student whose parent or guardian is being relocated due to their duties shall be deemed a resident pupil of a school district for purposes of enrollment.</p> <p>Also residents of the states comprising the designated region and attending the Massachusetts Maritime Academy shall be considered Massachusetts residents for the purposes of admission and tuition; and, that insofar as any person who is (i) a member of the armed forces and stationed in this state pursuant to military orders, (ii) the spouse of any person who is a member of the armed forces and stationed in this state pursuant to military orders, or (iii) an unemancipated person whose parent is a member of the armed forces and stationed in this state pursuant to military orders, shall be considered Massachusetts residents for the purposes of admission and tuition</p> <p>Any military connected person in the commonwealth shall be entitled to classification as an in-state student. This pertains to a serving member of the military, their spouse, or any dependents they may have.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Filed, 02/19/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1431 (HD.2246)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ABORTION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lewis, Lewis, Minicucci, Connolly, Khan, Eldridge, Comerford, Moore, Stanley, Sabadosa, Gentile, Robinson, Linsky, Gouveia, Higgins, Rogers, Peake, Argosky LeBoeuf, Hawkins</p> <p>Summary: Each public university health center of a university within University of Massachusetts segment and the state university segment, shall offer medical abortions to its patients. In the case they are not able to, they shall provide referrals for abortion care services.</p> <p>There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Public University Health Center Sexual and Reproductive Health Preparation Fund, hereafter called “the fund”, for the purpose of medical abortion readiness. The fund shall be administered by the department of public health, in consultation with the department of higher education. The fund shall be credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; and (ii) funds from non-state entities, including, but not limited to gifts, grants and donations from private entities and local and federal government agencies</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/17/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1459 (HD.1971)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT SUPPORTING URGENT COMMUNITY COLLEGE EQUITY THROUGH STUDENT SERVICES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Gobi, Roy</p> <p>Summary: It is hereby declared to be the policy of the commonwealth to support community college student success through wraparound supports and services to improve outcomes for students through a grant program to be known as the Supporting Urgent Community College Equity through Student Services program, hereinafter referred to as the SUCCESS program.</p> <p>SUCCESS will provide grants to Community Colleges to provide supports and services to improve outcomes for the most minoritized populations including, but not limited to: low-income, first generation, minority, and disabled students and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning students.</p> <p>There is hereby established and set up on the books of the Commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Supporting Urgent Community College Equity through Student Services Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as the SUCCESS Fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited thereto. Bunker Hill Community College, hereinafter referred to as the college,</p> |

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| | <p>shall hold the SUCCESS Fund in an account or accounts separate from other funds or accounts; provided, that the SUCCESS Fund shall be administered by the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/17/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1477 (HD.2969)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS INITIATIVES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Chandler, Vargas</p> <p>Summary: The Department of Higher Education (DHE) shall establish an initiative known as the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative to address college student food insecurity and hunger across all public higher education campuses. The office will develop and deliver technical assistance to assist the 29 public higher education campuses to engage in activities and implement interventions that reflect best practices that a) raise awareness on resources available to address basic food needs, b) leverage existing infrastructure and maximize current federal programs, and c) build strategic partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels to mitigate food insecurity among students. The office will also administer and advise the Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education on the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program.</p> <p>The Hunger-Free Campus Initiative will partner with public higher education campuses and certain not-for-profit campuses that disproportionately serve low-income students to support implementation of interventions that meet the aforementioned goals including the following five anti-hunger activities. Completion of the following five initiatives in each academic year will earn the campus the designation of a Hunger-Free Campus.</p> <p>Such designation will qualify institutions to apply for Hunger-Free Campus grants to support their work in addition to demonstrating public recognition of their efforts. Initial designation is for two years, with annual renewal thereafter.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1532</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION CAMPUS POLICE OFFICERS INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Pacheco, Tucker</p> <p>Summary: Section 111F of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in line 22, after the word “airport,” the following words:- any campus police officer employed by a state university, college or community college.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/17/2021</p> |

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| <p>SD.1632 (HD.611)</p> | <p>AN ACT EXPANDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACCESS TO EARN INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lesser, Roy</p> <p>Summary: An amendment to Chapter 69 of the General laws, as appearing in the 2018 official edition:</p> <p>Section 2: The Executive Office shall provide the Department annually with a list of 12 occupations in high need of additional skilled employees that either requires an industry- 2 of 3 13 recognized certification, or for which such a certification will materially enhance a job 14 applicant’s chances for employment and/or compensation. The Executive Office shall then rank the list based on employment value. This list will be available to all school districts in the Commonwealth as well as will be exhibited on the Department’s website.</p> <p>Subject to appropriation, the Department will pay each school district a certification award for each student who earns an industry-recognized certification for an occupation that has high employment value, or a lesser amount for each student in the district who earns an industry recognized certification that does not meet the criteria above.</p> <p>The Department will allocate at least 80% of any certification award to the school whose student(s) obtained the certification.</p> <p>The Department shall each year prepare an annual report on the progress made.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p>HD.1663</p> | <p>AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE EDUCATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Elugardo, Sabadosa, Comerford, Nguyen, Lewis, Lewis, Gonzalez, Howard, Murray, Gordon, Gouveia, Owens, Peisch, Sena, Minicucci</p> <p>Summary: There shall be a permanent commission on American Indian and Alaska Native education consisting of seventeen people across multiple departments of education, social services and health. This commission shall investigate the use of resources from both the public and private sector to enhance and improve the ability of state agencies to provide educational opportunities and improve education outcomes for all American Indian and Alaska Native students in order to further tribal self-determination.</p> <p>The commission may request from all state agencies such information and assistance as the commission may require. The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, 4 of 4 donations, grants or bequests or any federal funds, for any of the purposes of this section. These funds shall be deposited in a separate account with the state treasurer, be received by the treasurer on behalf of the commonwealth, and be expended by the commission in accordance with law.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Introduced, 02/10/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.1702 (HD.2747)</p> | <p>AN ACT ASSISTING LOW-INCOME STUDENTS SUCCESS THROUGH WORK-STUDY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Duffy, Higgins, Robinson, Sabadosa, Lewis, Gonzalez, Scanlon, Barber, Keefe, Kearney, Eldridge, Moore, Ashe</p> <p>Summary: To provide for the cost of creating a career pathways work-study trust fund and community college staff positions for the purposes of supporting the work of the trust fund established in section 5. Appropriated subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.</p> <p>Specifically, and subject to appropriation, Bunker Hill Community College shall support education opportunity coordinator positions through its entity, the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges. The coordinators will work with low-income students to enroll in community colleges across the state for the purpose of earning a certificate or two-year degree. Each community college campus will have at least one coordinator. These coordinators will provide focused assistance to recipients.</p> <p>Bunker Hill Community College will also file a report with several interested parties and committees to demonstrate a) the efficacy of community college placements in developing careers for recipients of cash assistance, b) the number of recipients enrolled, c) the number of recipients enrolled in a certificate or two-year degree program receiving grants under the Massachusetts Community College Career Pathways Trust Fund, d) student success rates, e) employment rates post degree completion f) employment rate one year after degree completion.</p> <p>2DDDDD. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Massachusetts Community College Career Pathways Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as the fund, to which shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited thereto. Bunker Hill Community College, hereinafter referred to as the college, shall hold the fund in an account or accounts separate from other funds or accounts; provided, that the fund shall be administered by the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges. Amounts credited to the fund shall be used by the college to carry out the purposes of the fund as set forth in this section. Any monies unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and may be expended by the college without further appropriation.</p> <p>(b) The fund shall be used to provide and fund state work-study employment opportunities for eligible low-income students enrolled in a certificate or two-year associate degree program at any community college. Preference shall be given to</p> |

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| | <p>students who are recipients of cash assistance through transitional aid to families with dependent children.</p> <p>An off-campus community service placement shall include direct service planning, career development or applied research that is designed to improve the quality of life for residents of the community served, particularly low-income residents, in such fields as health care, child care, education, literacy training, welfare, social services, public safety, crime prevention and control, transportation, recreation, housing and neighborhood improvement, rural development, and community improvement.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1768 (HD.1444)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS HUNGER PILOT PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Meschino, Sabadosa, Kane, Nguyen, Minicucci, Maratore, Gentile, Cutler, O’Day, Ashe, Hawkins, Ciccolo, Lovely, Khan</p> <p>Summary: There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a fund in order to combat food insecurity on community college campuses known as the “Massachusetts Community College Campus Hunger Program.”</p> <p>The Massachusetts Community College Campus Hunger Program will be funded by a) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court and specifically designated to the fund b) interest earned on such revenues c) funds from public and private sources including gifts and grants.</p> <p>The department of higher education shall distribute resources from the fund by issuing a 11 request for proposal through which community colleges may apply. The department shall grant 12 funds based on the demonstrated need and implementation plan of each applicant. Funds 13 received by college campuses shall be used to address food insecurity among students via means 14 including, but not limited to, meal cards, meal plans, meal vouchers, and other campus-designed 15 projects to address community college student food insecurity.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/5/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SD.1871</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE BRIDGE THE GAP SCHOLARSHIP TO UNIVERSALIZE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Montigny</p> |

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| | <p>Summary: This bill establishes 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 colleges. Such assistance will only apply after all other Federal and State financial assistance has been exhausted. To be eligible, students must have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, from an institution within the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| SD.1873 | <p>AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lewis, Eldridge</p> <p>Summary: As of October 1, 2024, institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth shall not use standardized test scores for purposes of determining student admission to undergraduate or graduate degree programs.</p> <p>Instead the commissioner of the department of higher education shall convene a working group with representatives from both public and private institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth to develop, support, and promote alternative methods for determining student admission to undergraduate and graduate degree programs that better promote equity and opportunity for students from all backgrounds, especially students of color.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| SD.1888 (HD.1572) | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): DiDomenico, Comerford, Decker, Connolly, Howard, Khan, Devers, Owens, Lawn, Barrett, Argosky LeBoeuf, O’Connor, Rogers</p> <p>Summary: All institutes of higher education shall require students to complete a fire safety curriculum. The fire safety curriculum shall include instruction on fire safety and an examination to test student proficiency.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| SD.1914 (HD.310) | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO LATE FEES FOR NO INTEREST STUDENT LOANS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Scanlon, Sena, Owens, Argosky LeBoeuf, Howard, Robertson, Feeney, Kearney, Vargas, Sabadosa</p> <p>Summary: Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Massachusetts department of higher education and the office of student financial assistance shall not apply late fees to no interest student loans issued pursuant to clause (cc) of section 9 of chapter 15A of the General Laws from March 10, 2020 to December 31st, 2021. Any late fee paid on a no-interest student loan issued</p> |

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| | <p>pursuant to said clause (cc) of said section 9 of said chapter 15A for a payment due from March 10, 2020 to the effective date of this shall be refunded within 30 days of the effective date of this act.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 01/19/2021</p> |
| <u>SD.1944</u> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO REMEDIAL COURSE VOUCHERS FOR STUDENTS IMPACTED BY COVID-19 COVID-19 related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): O'Connor</p> <p>Summary: A school district, charter school, approved, private say or residential school shall incorporate financial literacy standards into existing curriculum including but not limited to, mathematics, history and social sciences, technology or business. The department may apply for federal, state, or other funding to implement provisions of this section.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <u>SD.1948</u> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO STUDENT FINANCIAL LITERACY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): O'Connor</p> <p>Summary: The department of higher education shall provide all currently enrolled public school students with a voucher for the cost of one year of remedial courses at a state or community college listed in section 5 of chapter 15A or vocational-technical education school defined in chapter 74. For the purposes of this section, "remedial course" shall mean an entry level college course designed to bring students to an academic level of performance needed to succeed in college and the workforce, including, but not limited to, subjects on math, reading, writing, vocational skills, career readiness, and personal finance. Remedial courses shall not carry academic credits.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <u>SD.1975</u> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FINISH LINE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Tarr</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes a Finish Line scholarship program to provide scholarships to cover the entire cost of tuition and fees for a 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.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |

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| <p>SD.2128 (HD.3161)</p> | <p>AN ACT TO ENSURE SAFE AND HEALTHY PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION CAMPUSES COVID-19 related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Miranda, Sabadosa, Devers, Scanlon, Ramos, Lewis, Gentile, Hawkins, Gonzalez, Higgins, Argosky LeBoeuf, Uytterhoeven, Brady, Elugardo, Cahill, O’Day, Sena, Gomez, O’Day, Comerford, Moore</p> <p>Summary: This bill provides overarching protections relative to the Coronavirus pandemic to students, faculty, and staff alike. It lays out the requirements for things like daily testing, contact tracing etc.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.2185</p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION COLLECTIVE LABOR CONTRACTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Crighton</p> <p>Summary: The commission of higher education shall submit to the governor within thirty days after the date on which a collective bargaining agreement is executed by the parties, a request for an appropriation necessary to fund incremental cost items contained therein.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/19/2021</p> |
| <p>SD.2474</p> | <p>AN ACT SUPPORTING ACADEMIC RESEARCH LIBRARIES AND REGULATING TRADE AND COMMERCE OF ONLINE ACADEMIC DATABASES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): DiZoglio</p> <p>Summary: Any entity that sells academic databases shall reasonably and adequately disclose the pricing of database usage costs for higher education institutions by making readily available by phone and online: (i) prices and breakdowns of quoting prices for quoted priced products, and (ii) proper unit prices for all non-quoted priced products.</p> <p>Status: Filed, 02/19/2021</p> |
| <p>S.2979</p> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION CAMPUSES <i>SIGNED INTO LAW</i></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Ways and Means (incl. Gobi, Moore), Joint Committee on Higher Education (incl. Gobi, Roy, Garballey)</p> <p>Summary: Each institution shall conduct a sexual misconduct climate survey of all students at the institution not less than once every 4 years. There shall be a task force on sexual misconduct surveys. The commissioner of higher education shall</p> |

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| | <p>review and approve the sexual misconduct climate survey model questions provided by the task force and shall periodically review and make recommendations for changes to the model questions and to the content and timing of the sexual misconduct climate surveys. Consistent with applicable state and federal law and regulation, each institution shall adopt policies on sexual misconduct involving students or employees of the institution that comport with the best practices and current professional standards and shall establish procedures for regularly reviewing and updating the policies. The commissioner shall appoint within the department of higher education a campus safety advisor to facilitate and advance statewide campus safety at public and private institutions of higher education. Takes effect on August 1, 2021.</p> <p>Status: Signed by governor, 01/12/2021</p> |
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Governor Baker’s State of the Commonwealth Address

[2021 State of the Commonwealth Address](#)

Instead of laying out a detailed policy agenda, Gov. Baker's remarks revolved almost entirely around how Massachusetts has and continues to respond to the COVID-10 pandemic. He offered no further details about any legislation he might be working on.

NEW HAMPSHIRE GENERAL COURT

Current Status: In 2021, the New Hampshire State Legislature is scheduled to convene on January 6 and adjourn on June 30. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court is conducting legislative activities remotely with the exception of publicly noticed sessions in the House or Senate Calendar. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building remain closed to visitors.

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| <p><u>SB 19</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO THE DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORITY OF SIGNUM UNIVERSITY SIGNED INTO LAW</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ward, Ricciardi, Khan, Carson, Hennessey</p> <p>Summary: Signum University is hereby authorized to confer degrees upon its graduates, subject to the authority of the higher education commission under RSA 21-N:8-a. The degrees shall be specified by the higher education commission as provided in RSA 292:8-h, III.</p> <p>Status: Passed/Adopted, 02/04/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SB-20</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO ONE YEAR CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY TO TEACH</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Kahn, Ward, Watters</p> <p>Summary: This bill exempts individuals applying to teach a course in a CTE specialty area from the bachelor's degree requirement for a one-year certificate of eligibility to teach.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 01/12/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SB-44</u></p> | <p>ESTABLISHING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE WORKFORCE PATHWAY PROGRAM AND COMMISSION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Kahn, D'Allesandro, Whitley, Prentiss, Rosenwald, Hennessey, Soucy, Sherman, Ladd, Myler, Luneau</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes a workforce pathway program and commission in the community college system of New Hampshire.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Finance Committee, 01/19/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>SB-58</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION BY THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Carson, Giuda</p> <p>Summary: This bill makes changes to the statutory provisions governing the regulatory boards and commissions for technical professions and health professions in order to conform to oversight and administration by the office of professional licensure and regulation.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Executive Departments and Administration Committee, 01/27/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SB-85</u></p> | <p>ESTABLISHING A BROADBAND MATCHING GRANT INITIATIVE AND FUND</p> <p>COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Bradley, Cavanaugh, Avard, Prentiss, Sherman, Ward, Watters, Daniels, Gannon, Giuda, Rosenwald, D’Allesandro, Hennessey, Carson, Umberger, Marsh, Cushing</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes the broadband matching grant initiative and fund in the office of strategic initiatives.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee, 02/01/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SB-133</u></p> | <p>ADOPTING OMNIBUS LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Carson</p> <p>Summary: This bill adopts legislation relative to: I. Licensing places of assembly. II. Establishing a limited plumbing specialist license. III. Repealing the emergency medical services personnel licensure interstate compact. IV. Hearings at the board of nursing. V. Membership of the professional standards board. VI. Adopting the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact and the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. VII. Licensure and regulation of music therapists. VIII. The authority of the office of professional licensure and certification for administration, rulemaking, and enforcement of investigations, hearings, and appeals. IX. Skilled professional medical personnel. X. Temporary licensure of certain licensed nursing assistants. XI. The revocation of licensure for licensed emergency medical service units and emergency medical service vehicles. XII. Schools for barbering, cosmetology, and esthetics. XIII. Telemedicine provided by out of state psychologists. XIV. Sanitary production and distribution of food.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Referred to Executive Departments and Administration Committee, 02/10/2021</p> |
| <u>SB-147</u> | <p>ADOPTING OMNIBUS LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO STUDENT AID, THE CENTRAL REGISTRY, TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Khan</p> <p>Summary: Among other things, this bill would require high school graduates to complete the FAFSA and mandate high schools to provide sufficient resources for students and parents to understand and complete the application.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 02/12/2021</p> |
| <u>SB-148</u> | <p>ADOPTING OMNIBUS LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO VOCATIONAL AND CAREER EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, AND EMERGENCY PLANS FOR SPORTS INJURIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ward</p> <p>Summary: Among other things, this bill states that New Hampshire students have a right to a career and technical education. Career and technical education of consistent quality shall be equally available to students and across the state. Each career and technical education program pathway shall include embedded rigorous academic skills and technical core competencies aligned with national business and industry standards delivered through a relevant sequence of courses.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 02/04/2021</p> |
| <u>HB-2</u> | <p>AN ACT RELATIVE TO STATE FEES, FUNDS, REVENUES, AND EXPENDITURES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Weyler, Ober, Edwards, Umberger</p> <p>Summary: Provides details of the proposed community college and university systems merger. Among key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishes the New Hampshire College and University System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governed by a single Board of Trustees of 15 members ○ 5 chosen by the 4-year institutions, 5 chosen by the community colleges, 5 appointed by the governor ● BoT members limited to no more than 2 consecutive 4-year terms ● System led by one chancellor elected by BoT ● BoT would be required to recommend legislation for unification by Jan. 1, 2022. Unification would be effective no later than July 1, 2023 ● BoT must submit a report on operations to the governor annually by Nov. 1. |

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| | <p>Status: Referred to Finance Committee, Due out of committee 04/01/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB-94</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO LICENSURE RENEWAL DATES FOR CERTAIN GOVERNING BOARDS UNDER THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): McGuire, Lekas</p> <p>Summary: This bill revises the procedure and timeframe for license renewals of allied health professionals, body art practitioners, podiatrists, chiropractors, acupuncturists, and veterinarians.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Executive Departments and Administration Committee, 02/01/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB-149</u></p> | <p>EXTENDING CERTAIN CIVIL IMMUNITY TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES DURING MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Stapleton, Marsh, Pearson, Ulery, Rollins, Smith, Baldasaro</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes immunity from civil liability for public and private entities during a declared state of emergency due to a public health risk if the entity was acting in good faith and in accordance with public health and safety directives.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Judiciary Committee, Time not specified</p> |
| <p><u>HB-153</u></p> | <p>ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE TO STUDY UNIVERSAL INTERNET ACCESS FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Oxenham, Vail, McWilliams, Laflamme, Merner, Kahn</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes a committee to study universal Internet access for New Hampshire.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Science, Technology, and Energy Committee, 02/02/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB-209</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO THE LICENSURE AND REGULATION OF MUSIC THERAPISTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): McGhee</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes the music therapy governing board in the office of allied health professionals for the licensure and regulation of practitioners of music therapy.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Referred to Executive Departments and Administration Committee, 02/01/2021</p> |
| HB-234 | <p>RELATIVE TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSOCIATION ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Alexander, Baxter, Lynn, Marsh, Berry, O’Hara, Deshaies, Daniels, Avard</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes requirements for engaging in protected speech, association, or other forms of expression or communication at public institutions of higher education.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 02/23/2021</p> |
| HB-242 | <p>RELATIVE TO THE CONTENT OF ADEQUATE EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ladd, Smith, Boehm, Hobson, Cordelli, Umberger</p> <p>Summary: This bill adds specifics to the requirements of providing an opportunity for an adequate education. An adequate education shall provide all students with the opportunity to acquire <i>and apply</i>: I. Skill in reading, writing, and speaking English to enable them to communicate effectively and think creatively and critically. II. <i>Knowledge and</i> skill in mathematics and familiarity with methods of science to enable them to analyze information, solve problems, and make rational decisions. III. Knowledge of the biological, physical, and earth sciences to enable them to understand and appreciate the world <i>and the engineering, socio-economic, and geopolitical challenges</i> around them. Additionally, <i>an adequate education is one which instills students with essential knowledge derived from rigorous academic study and applied learning. Therefore, the opportunity for an adequate education shall be defined as rigorous academic study and applied learning in the following core knowledge domains.</i></p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 02/04/2021</p> |
| HB-255 | <p>RELATIVE TO LIMITED LIABILITY FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND BUSINESS</p> <p>COVID-19-related</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ladd, Smith, Aron, Shaw</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes a limitation on liability for an institution of higher education or a business, for personal injury resulting from or related to the actual or alleged exposure to coronavirus or COVID-19.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 02/04/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HB-261</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS IN TRADE AND INDUSTRY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Seaworth</p> <p>Summary: This bill amends the statute governing apprenticeship programs and repeals the provisions governing apprenticeship agreements.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Labor, Industrial, and Rehabilitative Services Committee, 03/04/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB-304</u></p> | <p>ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FUNDING OF TUITION AND TRANSPORTATION FOR CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ladd, Shaw, Hill, Hennessey, Cordelli, Umberger, Reagan, Bradley, Kahn, Allard</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes a committee to make recommendations relative to tuition and transportation funding of career technical education.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 01/26/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB-319</u></p> | <p>REQUIRING STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEMS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO PASS THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES CIVICS NATURALIZATION TEST</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Shaw, Moffett, Rouillard, Hobson, Pearl, Giuda, Lang</p> <p>Summary: This bill requires university system and community college system students, as a requirement for graduation, to pass the 2020 version of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization test.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, Time not specified</p> |
| <p><u>HB-349</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL NURSES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Hill, Smith, McGuire, Ladd, Lang, Cordelli, Lekas</p> <p>Summary: This bill removes the requirement for school nurses to be certified by the state board of education.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 02/02/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HB-362</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO DOMICILE OF STUDENTS FOR VOTING PURPOSES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Silber</p> <p>Summary: This bill repeals the consideration of a student's educational institution as his or her place of domicile for voting purposes.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Law Committee, Time not specified</p> |
| <p><u>HB-405</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO OUT OF STATE APPLICANTS OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Harrington</p> <p>Summary: This bill modifies the procedures for out-of-state applicants for professional licensure or certification to be issued a license or certificate in this state, allows for appeals of decisions, and provides for licensure or certification based on work experience and private certification.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Executive Departments and Administration Committee, 02/11/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB-429</u></p> | <p>RELATIVE TO COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY STUDENT VOTING</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Baldasaro, Cambrils, Pearl, Wallace, Moffett</p> <p>Summary: This bill provides for in-state tuition at any institution in the university system of New Hampshire or the community college system for any person who is registered to vote in this state. The bill also removes college or university identification cards from valid photo identification for obtaining a ballot.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Law Committee, Time not specified</p> |
| <p><u>HB-501</u></p> | <p>ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PAY RATE FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Cahill, Ellison, Myler</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes a minimum pay rate for adjunct faculty of the university system of New Hampshire and community college system of New Hampshire.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Labor, Industrial, and Rehabilitation Services Committee, 03/04/2021</p> |

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| <p>HB-513</p> | <p>RELATIVE TO THE DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORITY OF SIGNUM UNIVERSITY AND RELATIVE TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Allard, Ladd, Cordelli, Lekas, Boehm</p> <p>Summary: This bill requires approval by the higher education commission as a prerequisite to the granting of a degree by an educational institution. The bill also authorizes Signum university to grant degrees, subject to approval by the higher education commission.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 01/26/2021</p> |
| <p>HB-569</p> | <p>RELATIVE TO OFFERING VOCATIONAL TRAINING AS PART OF THE DRUG COURT AND ALTERNATIVE DRUG OFFENDER GRANT PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Spillane, Bershtein, Verville, Rock, Abbas, Reagan, Avard</p> <p>Summary: This bill authorizes a drug court to order a drug offender to complete a program offering career-focused vocational or technical education courses.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Judiciary Committee, 02/23/2021</p> |
| <p>HB-607</p> | <p>ESTABLISHING LOCAL EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Verville, Cordelli, Jeudy, Lekas, Seaworth, Greene, Potucek, Hill, Yokela, Cushman, Reagan</p> <p>Summary: This bill establishes local education freedom savings accounts for children between 5 and 20 years of age.</p> <p>Status: Referred to Education Committee, 02/09/2021</p> |
| <p>Governor Sununu’s 2021 Budget Address</p> <p>2021 Budget Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citing sharp enrollment declines, the rise of online education, and systemic inefficiencies, and needless competition among campuses, Gov. Sununu announced his budget proposal for a “fully unified and merged New Hampshire College and University System” to bring “11 separate system (sic) together as one” (pp. 5-6). The proposal includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The merger of the two Boards of Trustees ○ Each university and college would “still maintain their own campus, their own brand” ○ According to the governor, the defining characteristic of the new system will be “allowing students the ease of creating their own pathway in education” | |

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Current Status: In 2021, the Rhode Island State Legislature is scheduled to convene on January 5 and adjourn on June 30.

[HB.5018](#)

AN ACT RELATING TO COMPUTER SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Sponsor(s): Lombardi

Summary: This act would create a pilot program to provide scholarships to certified nursing assistants employed in certain high needs fields. These scholarships would enable these certified nursing assistants to participate in class work at CCRI and also in programs sponsored by the department of labor and training and the governor's workforce board, so that the CNAs could enhance their clinical skills

Status: Introduced, 01/22/2021

[HB.5063](#)

AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

Sponsor(s): McNamara

Summary: This act would direct the council on elementary and secondary education to develop recommendations for a high school curriculum to prepare students for successful postsecondary education and careers in computer science. The act would also direct the commissioner of elementary and secondary education to consider the council's recommendations and develop academic standards for a computer science high school curriculum. The courses in the computer science curriculum should, to the extent academically feasible, enable a student to utilize computer science courses to meet mathematics, and science admission requirements at the state's colleges and universities.

Status: Introduced, 01/13/2021

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| <p><u>HB.5073</u></p> | <p>AN ACT SECURING THE FINANCIAL FUTURE FOR ALL STUDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): McNamara</p> <p>Summary: This act would provide that the council on elementary and secondary education be encouraged to maintain, publish and update statewide standards for instruction of personal finance in public high schools.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/22/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5076</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO CREATE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): McNamara</p> <p>Summary: This act would require the principal at each school to provide an annual report on the number of graduating students and the number applying for admission to college or vocational training. The report would also include the number of students applying for federal financial aid and provide aggregated data on the race and sex of the students.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/22/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5082</u></p> | <p>AN ACT CREATING COMPENSATION FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Solomon</p> <p>Summary: This act would expressly allow college athletes, while they are students, to personally profit from the use of their name, image, and likeness, and prohibit the NCAA from preventing these practices.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/22/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5104</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fellela</p> <p>Summary: This act would authorize the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and the University of Rhode Island (URI) to sell discarded or surplus technology to their students at a discounted price with the monies collected to be utilized to purchase updated electronic equipment or technology for those educational institutions.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/22/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HB.5111</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Casimiro, Noret, Vella-Wilkinson</p> <p>Summary: This act would authorize state assistance to the Rhode Island wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) to support continued training and equipment for use by the state during times of natural disaster or emergency in accordance with needs requested by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in conjunction with the governor.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/25/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5114</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO THE PRECEPTORS TAX CREDIT ACT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Casimiro, Craven, McEntee, Fogarty, Bennett</p> <p>Summary: This act would allow for a tax credit of five hundred dollars (\$500) for any nurse practitioner or physician who provides on-site clinical education as a preceptor clinician to nurse practitioner graduate students, enrolled in the graduate nursing programs at the University of Rhode Island or Rhode Island College.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/25/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5140</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' BILL OF RIGHTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Bennett</p> <p>Summary: This act would amend the law enforcement officers' bill of rights to require that a person wishing to serve as a third member of a hearing committee attend training established by the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association before being eligible for appointment and would amend the suspension period for minor violations and the appeals procedure.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/25/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5211</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Casimiro, Donovan, McNamara, Amore, and O'Brien</p> <p>Summary: This act would provide two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to support comprehensive and 2 effective afterschool, summer learning and workforce development programs for students in grades 3 kindergarten through twelve (K-12).</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/25/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HB.5268</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - REAL ESTATE BROKERS AND SALESPERSONS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Diaz, Slater</p> <p>Summary: This act would require all applicants for a real estate broker's or salesperson's license to submit and pass a written examination to include topics on fair housing. This act would require all real estate licensees to complete a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of approved continuing education courses during each twenty-four (24) month license renewal section.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/29/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5295</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO USE OF ANIMALS IN MEDICAL TRAINING</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Edwards, Lima</p> <p>Summary: This act would prohibit a medical training program in this state from using a live animal while teaching medical procedures if at least one other accredited training program in the state in the same medical discipline does not use animals or there is an alternate teaching method that teaches the medical procedure or lesson without the use of an animal.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/29/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5350</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES FOR ALL STUDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Amore, Alzate, Messier, Williams, Barros, Fogarty, Biah</p> <p>Summary: This act would change the definition of advance placement to mean a college level class taught at the high school level that provides students the opportunity to earn college credit upon passage of an exam. This act also expands the reach of access to advanced placement courses to ensure that the opportunity to participate in the advanced placement program and gain college credit is available to the greatest number of students as practicable.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/05/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HB.5522</u></p> | <p>AN ACT TO OFFER ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Amore, Lombardi, Potter, Alzate, Giraldo, Morales</p> <p>Summary: This act would establish a process for the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island to accept for college credit an advanced placement subject test score of three (3) ("qualified") or better in an advanced placement course.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/12/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5670</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE APPRENTICE TAX CREDIT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Baginski, Caldwell, Potter</p> <p>Summary: This act creates a tax credit for employers of qualifying apprentices up to three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) per tax year commencing for the tax years after December 31, 2021 with a three (3) year carry forward provision for any unused portion of the tax credit in the succeeding tax year.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/24/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5815</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY POLICE POWER RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Hull, McLaughlin, Barros, Perez, Constantino</p> <p>Summary: This act would authorize police departments of a higher education institution to enter into an agreement with any city or town to provide assistance in a nonemergency situation for police services.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/24/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5837</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO BILITERACY EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Morales, Amore, Alzate, Ranglin-Vassell, Giraldo, Caldwell, Felix</p> <p>Summary: This act would allow high school students who receive the state Silver or Gold Seal of Biliteracy to earn two (2) to four (4) semesters of world language coursework credit toward a minor or major in the language at each state public university and public community college if requested within three (3) academic years after graduating high school.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/24/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HB.5838</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Morales, Amore, Alzate, Ranglin-Vassell, Giraldo, Felix</p> <p>Summary: This act would establish the concurrent enrollment courses for students enrolled in accelerated world language courses thereby allowing the students to earn credits towards a degree at a state university while contemporaneously earning credits towards a high school diploma.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/24/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5887</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fogarty, McEntee, Caldwell, Craven, Tanzi, Carson, Amore, McGaw, Lima, Kennedy</p> <p>Summary: This act would authorize members of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees to participate remotely in open public meetings if they are unable to be physically present.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/24/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5888</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fogarty, McEntee, Caldwell, Craven, Tanzi, Carson, Amore, McGaw, Lima, Kennedy</p> <p>Summary: This act would allow the board of trustees of the University of Rhode Island to make small procurements, up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), for construction and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for all other purchases pursuant to small purchase regulations promulgated by the board. The purchasing thresholds may be increased annually by the board to reflect annual increases in the federal Consumer Price Index published by the United States Department of Labor.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/24/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>HB.5889</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Fogarty, McEntee, Caldwell, Craven, Tanzi, Carson, Amore, McGaw, Lima, Kennedy</p> <p>Summary: This act would provide that the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees meeting requirement for a quorum is ten (10) voting members. The act would further provide that a seventeen (17) member board would be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/24/2021</p> |
| <p><u>HB.5928</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- TUITION FOR COVERED INDIVIDUALS UNDER POST-911 BILL AND MONTGOMERY GI BILL</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Vella-Wilkinson, Noret, Solomon, Azzinaro, Kennedy, Filippi</p> <p>Summary: This act would provide that children and spouses of active military members assigned to duty in Rhode Island, may continue to attend public post-secondary education in Rhode Island as in-state residents upon the service member reassignment elsewhere as long as the child or spouse remains continuously enrolled in the Rhode Island institution.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/24/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SB.79 (HB.5224)</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Callo, Cano, Pearson, Sosnowski, Euer, DiPalma, Ciccone, Shekarchi, Diaz, Amore, Baginski, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Potter, Felix, Biah, Batista</p> <p>Summary: This bill removes the requirement that the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship cease with the enrollment of the high school graduating class of 2021 at the Community College of Rhode Island.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 01/26/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>SB.152</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Mack, Lawson, Mendes, DiMario, Valverde, Quezada, Kallman, Cano, Bell and Calkin</p> <p>Summary: This act would require feminine hygiene products be provided in all universities and colleges at no cost to students.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/05/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SB.209</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES FOR ALL STUDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lawson, Gallo, Euer, Cano, Pearson, Picard, Sonowski, DiPalma, Goldin, Quezada</p> <p>Summary: This act would change the definition of advance placement to mean a college level class taught at the high school level that provides students the opportunity to earn college credit upon passage of an exam. This act also expands the reach of access to advanced placement courses to ensure that the opportunity to participate in the advanced placement program and gain college credit is available to the greatest number of students as practicable.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/10/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SB.213</u></p> | <p>AN ACT ESTABLISHING APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAYS TO EARNING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Gallo, Lombardo, DiPalma, Seveney</p> <p>Summary: This act would create the Apprenticeship Pathways to Earning a Bachelor’s Degree Act, to enable an individual to earn a bachelor’s degree at public higher education institutions throughout the state by earning credits through apprenticeships. The subject areas in which a student-apprentice may earn a bachelor's degree through a nontraditional pathway, with a greater priority given to subject areas that have both a low completion rate and a hiring need by employers existing in the state.</p> <p>The board of education shall adopt policies or regulations establishing nontraditional pathways to earning a bachelor’s degree at state public higher education institutions in the state through the inclusion of credits earned through apprenticeships and will report their plans no later than January 1, 2022.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/10/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>SB.300</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION CONCERNING THE STAY INVESTED IN RI WAVEMAKER FELLOWSHIP</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Pearson, Valverde, Seveney</p> <p>Summary: This act would repeal the provisions of the Stay Invested in RI Wavemaker Fellowship, and establish the Stay Invested in RI Tax Credit to provide eligible taxpayers with a tax credit for educational loan repayment expenses.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/18/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SB.329</u></p> | <p>A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26, 2021, TO BE “PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK IN RHODE ISLAND”</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Lawson, Gallo, Picard, Lombardo, Cano, Seveney, DiPalma, Sosnowski, Euer, DiMario</p> <p>Summary: This act honors teachers, students, and parents involved in public school systems in the state of Rhode Island by declaring the aforementioned week as “Public Schools Week in Rhode Island.”</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/23/2021, RESOLVED, referred to Commissioner Infante-Green</p> |
| <p><u>SB.359</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO PERSONAL INCOME TAX</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Pearson, Cano, Euer, Valverde, Murray, Seveney</p> <p>Summary: This act would allow a deduction from federal adjusted gross income for interest payments on outstanding student loans.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 02/25/2021</p> |
| <p><u>SB.465</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): McCaffrey</p> <p>Summary: This act would provide that the public schools shall be responsible for attendance data monitoring and detection of emergent truant behavior.</p> <p>Status: Introduced, 03/04/2021</p> |

Governor Raimondo’s State of the State Address

[2021 State of the State Address](#)

Gov. Raimondo’s address was a farewell speech, as she shortly thereafter became U.S. commerce secretary. A large portion of her speech was spent reflecting on her policy priorities over the last six years. On education, the governor underscored her most memorable education-related accomplishment: the Rhode Island Promise scholarship program, which offers all high school graduates two years of tuition-free college at the Community College of Rhode Island. She thanked House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi and Senate President Dominick Ruggerio for introducing legislation last week that would make the program permanent.

VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Current Status: In 2021, the Vermont State Legislature is scheduled to convene on January 6 and adjourn on May 28. The State House is currently closed to the public out of an abundance of caution during the COVID-19 pandemic. The general assembly is working remotely until further notice.

[H.72](#)

AN ACT RELATING TO PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICE COURSES AT REGIONAL TECHNICAL CENTERS

Sponsor(s): Canfield

Summary: This bill proposes to direct the Agency of Education to provide postsecondary career technical education courses at regional technical centers for Firefighter I and Emergency Medical Responder certifications.

Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, 01/14/2021

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| <p><u>H.79</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO REQUIRING POSTSECONDARY CREDITS IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AS A CONDITION OF TEACHER LICENSING</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Townsend</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to require each applicant seeking to obtain or renew a license to teach in a public elementary or secondary school in Vermont to have completed at least one three-credit course in African American history at an accredited college or university, covering the period from the European colonization of North America through the end of the 20th century.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education, 01/14/2021</p> |
| <p><u>H.106</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO EQUITABLE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION THROUGH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): James, Anthony, Austin, Bongartz, Bos-Lun, Brady, Brown, Brumstead, Burke, Chase, Christie, Coffey, Durfee, Elder, Hooper, Houghton, Jerome, Kornheiser, Mrowicki, Mulvaney-Stanak, Pajala, Sims, Stebbins, Townsend, Troiano, Vyhovsky, Webb, White, Yantachka</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to facilitate and provide funding for the implementation of community schools that provide all students with equitable access to a high-quality education. Among other things, it calls for furthering community engagement through partnerships with higher education institutions and teacher preparation institutions.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Appropriations, 03/10/2021</p> |
| <p><u>H.122</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Cannon, LaClair</p> <p>Summary: Among other things, this bill would establish a Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund in the Office of the State Treasurer to comprise the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Money granted to the University of Vermont (UVM) to create or increase a permanent endowment. ● A report on the funds must be provided by UVM, VSC, and VSAC to the House and Senate Committees on Education each January. <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Government Operations, 02/19/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>H.130</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR HOW A RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS NOT USING PUBLIC TUITION FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Burrows, Beck, Patt, Arrison, Masland, White</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to require the State Board of Education to, by rule, define what a religious school is and set out the standards under the Chittenden v. Department of Education, 169 Vt. 310 (1999) case for how a religious school can demonstrate that it is not using public tuition for religious instruction.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education, 01/26/2021</p> |
| <p><u>H.138</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS SIGNED INTO LAW</p> <p>Sponsor(s): House Committee on Appropriations</p> <p>Summary: Among other items, the bill appropriates \$3,600,000 in FY 21 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to Vermont State Colleges to assist with pandemic-related expenses. If further funds are available in FY 21 or 22, then VSC is appropriated up to \$800,000 from the same funds to assist with pandemic-related expenses.</p> <p>VSC is granted an additional \$22,758,000 for costs and business disruptions through December 31, 2021 due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Status: Governor signed, 03/02/2021</p> |
| <p><u>H.162</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO PROTECTING STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS FROM DECEPTIVE AND MISLEADING PRACTICES BY STUDENT LOAN LENDERS AND SERVICERS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Rachelson</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to create a postsecondary education student loan bill of rights to protect student loan borrowers from deceptive and misleading practices by student loan lenders and servicers and to require State licensing and regulation of these lenders and servicers.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, 01/29/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>H.181</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING AND PROFICIENCY-BASED GRADUATION VOLUNTARY</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Scheuermann, Brennan, Donahue, Gregoire, Harrison, Leffler, Strong</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to permit 10 schools to choose whether to offer proficiency-based learning and proficiency11 based graduation.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education, 02/03/2021</p> |
| <p><u>H.183</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Hanzas, Grad, Colburn</p> <p>Summary: Would form a task force on campus sexual harm that would allow schools to share resources, information and best practices to create more consistency across Vermont’s campuses in the way schools respond to sexual violence.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, 02/03/2021</p> |
| <p><u>H.219</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Hango, Sibia, Birong, Austin, Goslant, Gregoire, Morgan, Morgan, Morrissey, Norris, Ode, Page, Savage, Scheuermann, Squirrel, Troiano, Wood</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to create a student loan repayment program for members of the Vermont National Guard. This program would be available to members who have completed basic training and who have incurred postsecondary student loan debt and would be available after all other sources of federal and State aid to reduce the member’s student loan debt have been used. The benefit would be up to the in-State tuition rate charged by Northern Vermont University for four academic years, and would require two years of National Guard service for each year of student loan debt relief. The fiscal year 2022 General Fund appropriation for this program would be \$1,000,000.00, and this appropriation would be expected to fund the student loan repayment program for the program’s first two years of operation.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education, 02/09/2021</p> |

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| <p><u>H.362</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO ADDING MEMBERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT BOARD OF TRUSTEES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Colburn, Anthony, Cina, Mulvaney-Stanak, Rachelson, Satcowitz, Small, Stebbins, Vyhovsky</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to add members to the University of Vermont Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education, 02/26/2021</p> |
| <p><u>H.377</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO THE CREATION OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WITH ADVANCE VERMONT TO INCREASE POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT IN VERMONT</p> <p>Sponsor(s): James, Austin, Brady, Jerome</p> <p>Summary: In order to further the State’s goal that 70 percent of working-age Vermonters hold a credential of value by 2025, this bill proposes to create a public-private partnership with Advance Vermont to increase postsecondary attainment in Vermont.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education, 03/09/2021</p> |
| <p><u>H.969</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT SIGNED INTO LAW</p> <p>Sponsor(s): House Committee on Appropriations</p> <p>Summary: An appropriations bill. For Education (Flexible Pathways), \$4,000,000 from the Education Fund is for reimbursement of high school completion services. From this, \$921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs. Further, \$921,500 from the General Fund is available for dual enrollment programs, and \$41,225 from the General Fund is available for needs-based stipends. Section E605.2 provides for \$82,450 to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for financially needy students enrolled in a dual enrollment course. These funds shall be used to purchase books, the cost of transportation, and payment of fees</p> <p>Status: Governor signed, 10/02/2020</p> |

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| <p><u>S.29</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE VSC TUITION-FREE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR VERMONT RESIDENTS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Hardy, Ram, Perchlik</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to create the VSC Scholarship Program to provide tuition-free scholarships for Vermont residents who attend any of the Vermont State Colleges.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education, 01/14/2021</p> |
| <p><u>S.37</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE VERMONT STATE COLLEGES BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RESTRUCTURING PLAN AND TUITION PROGRAM FOR THE VERMONT STATE COLLEGES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Pollina, Pearson, Perchlik</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to expand and 8 reconstitute the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees, to require the reconstituted Board to develop a restructuring plan and tuition program for the Vermont State Colleges, and, on or before December 15, 2021, for the Board to report its recommendations to the General Assembly.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education, 01/20/2021</p> |
| <p><u>S.62</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO CREATING A NEW VERMONT EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE PROGRAM</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Sirotkin, Balint, Clarkson, Hooker, Lyons</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to create a New Vermont Employee Incentive Program.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs, 02/03/2021</p> |
| <p><u>S.89</u></p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATIONAL LOAN BENEFIT PROGRAM FOR DOCTORS, NURSES, AND TEACHERS, INCLUDING CHILDCARE EDUCATORS</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Hooker, Clarkson, Hardy, Lyons, Perchlik, Pollina, Ram</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to create the Workforce Development Educational Loan Benefit Program under which educational scholarships and student loan forgiveness shall be provided to individuals who work in a job as a doctor, nurse, or teacher, including childcare educators, in the State.</p> |

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| | <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs, 02/23/2021</p> |
| <p>S.104</p> | <p>AN ACT RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF MILITARY FAMILIES</p> <p>Sponsor(s): Ram, Chittenden, Parent</p> <p>Summary: This bill proposes to allow a child whose parent is transferring to Vermont on military orders to be remotely enrolled in public schools. This bill also provides that the spouse and dependent child of any person who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and is stationed in this State pursuant to military orders be considered a resident for in-state tuition purposes and does not lose that status if the member transfers out of State on military orders.</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on Education, 03/09/2021</p> |

Governor Scott’s State of the State Address

Third Inaugural State of the State Address

The governor highlighted investments in public health, economic relief, housing, and more over the course of the pandemic. He asked the Legislature to collaborate with his Administration and build on that progress to address disparities in education and childcare, promote economic opportunity and job growth, and make Vermont more affordable for working families.

Gov. Scott acknowledged the challenges Vermont faces as a result of its aging population and shrinking workforce — specifically citing Vermonters who have left the state to attend college elsewhere. He called for policies that support the state’s economic growth, saying, “We need more taxpayers, not more taxes.”

Select Committee on the Future of the Vermont State College System

On June 6, 2020, Gov. Scott signed [H.961](#), creating the Select Committee on the Future of the Vermont State College System (Select Committee). The legislation was written in response to the unfavorable financial outlook of the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) due to sustained enrollment losses, weak demographics and low state support, among other factors. In April 2020, former Chancellor Jeb Spaulding issued an unpopular [proposal](#) (which he later [withdrew](#)) to close Northern Vermont University and the Randolph campus of Vermont Technical College to balance the system’s budget. The severity of the system’s outlook was worsened by the impact of COVID-19, which drew legislative attention to the matter and the creation of a VSC system task force and other working groups.

The legislature charged the Select Committee, composed of 15 members, with “address[ing] the urgent needs of the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) and develop[ing] an integrated vision and plan for a high-quality, affordable, and workforce-connected future for public higher education in the state.” The Select Committee must also “offer recommendations on how to increase affordability for students, access, retention, attainment, relevance, and fiscal sustainability including the following issues:

1. The financial sustainability of the VSC System and its impact on institutional capacity to innovate and meet State goals and learners' needs.
2. The current organizational structure of VSC.
3. The alignment of the VSC System and workforce development goals, policy frameworks, and partnerships between businesses and institutions of higher education that are designed to meet the needs of employers and promote the public value of education.
4. Collaboration with the University of Vermont to move Vermont toward meeting the concepts in [#3 above].”

The Select Committee convened in late August 2020 to commence its work and have issued two iterative reports to date. Among the reports' five key recommendations are:

- The VSC System should be restructured and its institutions should be assigned clear missions.
- The Community College of Vermont should remain a separate institution, while Northern Vermont, Castleton and Vermont Technical College should be unified into a single institution.
- The State of Vermont should adopt a strategic approach to how it funds the VSC System.

The Select Committee's final report will be released in April 2021. However, the VSC Board of Trustees has moved to adopt the Select Committee's recommendation to unify Northern Vermont, Castleton, and Vermont Technical College. The legislature is expected to take up the Select Committee's additional recommendations, including those related to state support, this session.