HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2815 FILED ON: 2/18/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 3355

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John W. Scibak

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act establishing the Massachusetts higher education matching grants program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
John W. Scibak	*2nd Hampshire*
Michael J. Finn	*6th Hampden*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
John D. Keenan	*7th Essex*
Jason M. Lewis	*31st Middlesex*
Stanley C. Rosenberg	*Hampshire and Franklin*
David M. Torrisi	*14th Essex*
Theodore C. Speliotis	*13th Essex*
Peter V. Kocot	*1st Hampshire*
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	*4th Hampden*
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	*10th Hampden*
Michael R. Knapik	☐ *[District]* ☐
Denise C. Garlick	*13th Norfolk*
Ellen Story	*3rd Hampshire*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 3355

By Mr. Scibak of South Hadley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3355) of John W Scibak and others for legislation to establishing a higher education matching grants program. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act establishing the Massachusetts higher education matching grants program.

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

Chapter 15A of the general laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 42. (a) There shall be established with the department of higher education, a higher education matching grants program to provide funding to public institutions of higher education, as set forth in section 5, to meet the matching contribution requirements as specified by the awarding federal agency, foundation, or other non-state funding entity.

The purpose of the program is to: (1) expand access and availability of federal and corporate research funding for both basic and applied research at public institutions of higher education; (2) enable faculty and staff to successfully compete for external funding and to increase their research capabilities; (3) improve the research capabilities of public institutions of higher education; and (4) provide a vehicle for faculty and staff to meet required matching contribution requirements and be eligible for available competitive grant funds.

(b) There shall be established and placed within the department a fund to be known as the Higher Education Matching Grants Fund, hereinafter in this section referred to as the fund, to be held by the department separate and apart from its other funds. The fund shall be credited any appropriations, bond proceeds, or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically designed to be credited thereto. All available moneys in the fund that are unexpended at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year.

(c) The department shall develop and approve rules for the program prior to the distribution of any grants from the fund. Said rules shall establish the terms and conditions for all grant awards and shall establish the terms, procedures, standards, evaluation criteria and conditions which the department shall employ to identify qualified applications, process

24 applications, and make grant determinations. Copies of the approved rules, and any
25 modifications thereto, shall be submitted to the clerks of the house of representatives and the
26 senate and shall forward the same to the house and senate committees on ways and means and
27 the joint committee on higher education.

28 All requests for funding from the program shall be accompanied by a copy of the
29 application for federal, foundation or other non-state funding and shall include a copy of the
30 matching fund requirements as specified by the funding entity. Applications may be reviewed
31 on a rolling basis.

32 (d) Projects eligible for funding shall meet the following criteria: (1) the project involves
33 either basic research or applied research activities; (2) the research project is awarded grant funds
34 through an open and competitive process of merit review; and (3) matching funds are required by
35 the sponsor or the award is conditioned on a match as a determination of institutional
36 commitment.

37 Research projects for which the commonwealth has provided a specific grant or
38 appropriation are ineligible for funds under the program.

39 (e) Funding under the program may be used to pay the base salaries of faculty, staff, and
40 to fund affiliated graduate or undergraduate student fellowships directly related to the stated
41 research project. Funds may also be used to purchase basic infrastructure including, but not
42 limited to, essential equipment supplies and materials directly related to the research project.

43 Workforce training or development, curricular development, clinical trials, building
44 construction or renovation or any other activities seen as incidental to the basic research or
45 applied research being proposed shall not be funded under the program.