SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1602 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 42

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 improving the educational rewards grant program to assist low income workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James B. Eldridge	☐ *[District]* ☐
Linda Dorcena Forry	*12th Suffolk*
Susan C. Fargo	☐ *[District]* ☐
Michael O. Moore	☐ *[District]* ☐
Harriette L. Chandler	☐ *[District]* ☐
Michael F. Rush	*Suffolk and Norfolk*
Gloria L. Fox	*7th Suffolk*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex*
Cory Atkins	*14th Middlesex*
Christine E. Canavan	*10th Plymouth*

Thomas P. Conroy	*13th Middlesex*
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*
Thomas M. McGee	*Third Essex and Middlesex*

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By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 42) of James B. Eldridge, Michael O. Moore, Sal N. DiDomenico, Linda Dorcena Forry and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to Workers' Pathways to Self Sufficiency. [Higher Education]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
SENATE
, NO. *37* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act improving the educational rewards grant program to assist low income workers.

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

SECTION 1. The second sentence of section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the words "public or nonprofit" after the word "accredited".

SECTION 2. Section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by deleting the words "The grant program shall serve as a last resort, after other federal and state grants have been exhausted" in the second to the last sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the words, "The amount of the award shall be applied towards student financial need in excess of the financial need met by other federal, state or private grants without regard to the amount that may be available through loans".

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a portion of the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established pursuant to section 2SSS of chapter 29 of the General Laws shall be used for a "Supports for Success" pilot program to assist Educational Rewards recipients complete their degree or certificate programs; provided further, that supports provided through said pilot may include but need not be limited to intensive advising and counseling, college and career success courses, work study jobs in the students' field of study, learning communities, curricula redesign to support blended or accelerated remediation, mentoring or tutoring, and child care and transportation assistance.

17 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, on or before
18 December 1 of each year, the Department of Higher Education in collaboration with the Office
19 of Student Financial Assistance shall submit to the house and senate clerks and the chairs of
20 house and senate committees on ways and means a report on use in the prior fiscal year of the
21 Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund established pursuant to section 2SSS of chapter 29 of
22 the General Laws; provided further, that such report shall include but need not be limited to the
23 number of grants awarded, the amount of each grant, the level of educational attainment of grant
24 recipients before the grant was awarded, degrees and certificates awarded to recipients, recipient
25 demographic information, recipient retention rates while receiving the grant, and analysis of the
26 strengths and areas of needed improvement in Educational Rewards Grant Program and the
27 "Supports for Success" pilot program and recommendations for such improvements.