SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1333 FILED ON: 1/18/2013

SENATE . . . . . No. 588

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 Finish Line Scholarship Program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 588

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 588) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to establish the Finish Line Scholarship program. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act establishing the Finish Line Scholarship Program.

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. Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after section 16, the following new section:-

"Section 16A. Finish Line Scholarship Program

There shall be a Finish Line Scholarship 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 the median family income in Massachusetts.

The Department of Higher Education shall establish guidelines governing said program, which shall include but not be limited to eligibility requirements, selection criteria (such as acceptable grades and an academic plan for timely degree completion), and other guidelines designed to help meet the department's goals, such as increasing overall student success and graduation rates, and lowering achievement gaps for high-risk students; provided, further, that no funds from this scholarship program may be used to pay the tuition or fees for any course or program offered or administered by a non-public entity and that no student shall be eligible to receive a scholarship from this program more than one time.

If funds appropriated for this program are insufficient to cover costs of qualified applicants, the department shall hold a lottery for available scholarships. 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 of Higher Education of the General Court a report analyzing the usage, achievements and costs of this program, together with

24 recommendations for its future, no later than 120 days following the program's first year of
25 operation."