HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/14/2009

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PRESENTED BY:

**Marie P. St. Fleur**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*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 bill:

An Act to promote educational parity within institutions of higher learning .

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Marie P. St. Fleur | 5th Suffolk |
| Geraldo Alicea | 6th Worcester |
| Willie Mae Allen | 6th Suffolk |
| William N. Brownsberger | 24th Middlesex |
| Christine E. Canavan | 10th Plymouth |
| Linda Dorcena Forry | 12th Suffolk |
| Sean Garballey | 23rd Middlesex |
| Jay R. Kaufman | 15th Middlesex |
| John D. Keenan | 7th Essex |
| Kay Khan | 11th Middlesex |
| Elizabeth A. Malia | 11th Suffolk |
| Denise Provost | 27th Middlesex |
| Pam Richardson | 6th Middlesex |
| Byron Rushing | 9th Suffolk |
| Jeffrey Sánchez | 15th Suffolk |
| Tom Sannicandro | 7th Middlesex |
| Carl M. Sciortino, Jr. | 34th Middlesex |
| Frank I. Smizik | 15th Norfolk |
| Ellen Story | 3rd Hampshire |
| Benjamin Swan | 11th Hampden |
| Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. | 26th Middlesex |
| Cleon H. Turner | 1st Barnstable |
| Alice K. Wolf | 25th Middlesex |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1197 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act to promote educational parity within institutions of higher learning .

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

Section 9 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 52 of chapter 26 of the Acts of 2003, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:—

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, except the University of Massachusetts Medical School, any individual, other than a non-immigrant alien within the meaning of paragraph 15 of subsection (a) of Section 1101 of Title 8 of the United States Code, who has attended high school in the commonwealth for 3 or more years and has achieved graduation from a high school in the commonwealth or attained the equivalent thereof, shall be eligible for in-state tuition rates and fees at the University of Massachusetts, or any state or community college. No person qualified for in-state tuition rates and fees under this chapter shall be denied such in-state tuition and fees as a result of the granting of eligibility under this paragraph. In the case of an individual who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, the individual shall provide the University of Massachusetts, or the state or community college with an affidavit stating that the individual has filed an application to become a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, or shall file an application at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so.