



## **A BILL TO PROVIDE RESIDENT COLLEGE TUITION TO IMMIGRANT STUDENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

**Sponsored by Representative Marie St. Fleur and Senator Jarrett Barrios**  
**House Bill Number: 3136**  
**Senate Bill Number: 237**

### **What does this bill do?**

This bill allows immigrant students graduating from high school to access resident tuition when they attend public higher education institutions provided they have resided in the state for a number of years and gone through the Massachusetts school system.

### **Why is this bill needed?**

- ◆ The Massachusetts economy depends on immigrant labor. According to recent research, Massachusetts was more dependent on immigrant labor for its labor force growth during the 1990s than any other state in the United States with the exception of New York<sup>1</sup>.
- ◆ Immigrants represented 1 of every 6 members of the state's labor force during the past two years.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Immigrants represent the state's economic future. It is imperative that immigrants possess the education and skills required to fuel the Commonwealth's economy.
- ◆ Many immigrant students who entered the country at a very young age with their parents do not realize they are undocumented. They are high achievers who can and will succeed if they have the opportunity to pursue a higher education.
- ◆ Currently, these young immigrants must pay out of state tuition to attend state and city universities and colleges. Out of state tuition is often several thousands of dollars more per semester than in state tuition.
- ◆ Many of these students cannot afford to pay out of state tuition. As a result, they are forced to forego college and work in low-paying, low-skilled jobs.

### **Have Other States Passed Similar Legislation?**

- ◆ Many other states including Texas, Utah, California, and New York have passed bills allowing undocumented immigrant students who have lived and attended school in the state for many years to access in-state resident tuition.
- ◆ All of these states realize the critical contribution of immigrant labor to their state's workforce.
- ◆ Many other states are currently considering similar legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> Foreign Immigration and Its Contributions to Population and Labor Force Growth in Massachusetts and the U.S.: A Recent Assessment of 2000 Census and CPS Survey Findings. Andrew Sum, Sheila Palma, Mykhaylo Trubb'sky, Ishwar Khaiwada. Center for Labor Market Studies. Northeastern University. December 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## **Who are the cosponsors and supporters of this bill?**

### Representatives cosponsoring or supporting the bill

Representatives -

Cory Atkins  
Ruth Balser  
Deborah Blumer  
Michael Festa  
Gloria Fox  
Kevin Honan  
Patricia Jehlen  
Kay Khan  
James Leary  
David Linsky  
Elizabeth Malia  
James Marzilli  
Shirley Owens-Hicks  
Mary Rogeness  
Byron Rushing  
Ellen Story  
Benjamin Swan  
Timothy Toomey  
Alice Wolf

### Senators cosponsoring or supporting the bill

Senators -

Susan Fargo  
Mark Montigny  
Pamela Resor

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