



**PHENOM**  
public higher education network of massachusetts

## 2019-2020 Legislative Agenda

### **Major Campaigns**

#### **[Debt Free Future Act \(S744/H1221\)](#)**

This legislation would guarantee free public higher education as a right for all residents by providing the equivalent of tuition and mandatory fees to all state residents or other eligible students at any Massachusetts public college or university, or certificate, vocational or training program at a public institution, up to the equivalent of four years of public college or university.

#### **[Fund Our Future Cherish Act \(H1214/S741\)](#)**

The Cherish Act would reaffirm the state's commitment to public higher education by returning to FY2001 funding levels and implementing the 2014 Higher Education Finance Commission recommendation to return more than \$500 million in annual funding for all 29 public community colleges, state universities, and UMass campuses. It would freeze tuition and fees for five years if necessary funds are appropriated.

We support the Promise Act ([S238/H586](#)), the Fund Our Future companion bill for PreK-12 schools.

### **Student Rights**

#### **[Student Loan Bill of Rights \(S160/H998\)](#)**

This bill provides all student loan borrowers in the state with the basic consumer protections they deserve and cuts through the red tape intentionally created by student loan servicers.

#### ***An Act relative to equal opportunity for high school graduates in the commonwealth* ([S740/H1239](#))**

This bill would guarantee in-state tuition and access to financial aid for undocumented students.

#### ***An Act relative to sexual violence on higher education campuses* ([S764/H1209](#))**

This bill requires all higher education institutions to create and communicate policies on sexual and gender-based violence, mandate prevention training for students, and outline procedures for schools responding to reports of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

#### ***An Act requiring sexual misconduct climate surveys at institutions of higher education* ([S736/H1208](#))**

This bill would mandate annual climate surveys of sexual misconduct on public college campuses.

#### **[Finish Line Grant \(S769/H1211\)](#)**

This bill would provide one full year of tuition and fees after a student's first year at any community college, state university, or UMass campus.

## **Respecting Workers On and Off Campus**

### ***An Act to ensure fair public higher education workplaces ([S1547/H2322](#))***

This bill would provide adjunct faculty with access to health and retirement benefits, pay parity with full-time faculty, and give them priority consideration for new or vacant full-time positions. It would also address issues with state approval of labor contracts and eliminate the 60-day waiting period for newly hired employees to begin receiving health insurance coverage through the GIC.

### ***An Act protecting the right to strike ([H1602](#))***

This bill would provide public employees with the right to engage in a strike.

### ***Fair Scheduling Act ([S1110/HD3384](#))***

With this bill, workers in restaurants, retail establishments, and the hospitality industry would be able to count on the right to 14 days advance notice of hours, the right to request specific hours without retaliation, the right to rest for 11 hours between shifts, and other additional certainty in work schedules.

### ***An Act to Prevent Wage Theft ([S1066/H1610](#))***

This bill addresses a growing crisis of nearly \$700 million in wages stolen from about 350,000 low-wage workers each year in Massachusetts.

### ***An Act relative to work and family mobility ([S2061/H3012](#))***

This bill would permit all qualified residents, regardless of immigration status, to receive a standard driver's license under the state's now-two-tiered system.

## **Raising Revenues**

### ***Fair Share Amendment ([S16/H86](#))***

A proposed amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution that would [create an additional 4 percent tax on annual income over \\$1 million](#), raising \$2 billion a year for public education and transportation.

### ***An Act relative to certain endowment funds in private institutions of higher learning ([S1669](#))***

This bill taxes private college endowments of over \$1 billion at 2.5 percent to fund public education.

### ***An Act relative to the endowment match program ([S753/H1201](#))***

This bill provides state funds to match private donations to public college and university endowments.

### ***An Act to strengthen the foundation of the Commonwealth ([H2424](#))***

This legislation would strengthen the foundation of the Commonwealth by raising substantial new revenue through progressive means, including raising rates on interest, dividends, and capital gains; implementing a tiered corporate minimum excise tax; and ending the inheritance loophole for capital gains.