

# SENATE NO. 728

## **AN ACT** ESTABLISHING A MODEL OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH'S PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other general or special law to the contrary, the  
2 Board of Higher Education established pursuant to section 4 of chapter 15A, through its Policy and  
3 Planning Section, is authorized and directed to assess the feasibility of establishing a demonstration  
4 project at an independent, licensed and accredited Massachusetts institution of higher education and  
5 a public institution of higher education; and provided further, that said demonstration project shall  
6 serve as a model for future collaboration between public and private higher education institutions;  
7 and further that the goals of said project shall be to effectuate non-duplication of program effort,  
8 economies of scale and efficiencies in campus operations and to leverage excess capacity in order to  
9 contain costs and increase access to higher learning opportunities in the Commonwealth of  
10 Massachusetts. Said study shall include, but not be limited to, utilizing academic programs and  
11 major fields at independent colleges and universities to supplement offerings at public higher  
12 education institutions through a co-branding model; exploring opportunities for faculty at both  
13 public and independent institutions to hold joint appointments; and offering on-line programs and  
14 courses to students as joint offerings of the public and independent institutions with the goal of  
15 expanding access to, and choice of programs for students across the Commonwealth. Said board  
16 shall submit a report on the pilot project and its potential for expansion throughout higher education

17 to the Joint Committee on Higher Education and the House and Senate Committees on Ways and

18 Means not later than December 1, 2009.