

ENATE NO. 733

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WRITING PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

*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. Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 1 the
2 following section:-

3 Section 1A. (a) The board of higher education shall establish a writing proficiency examination to be
4 administered to a student attending a public institution of higher education. The examination shall be
5 offered twice a year and shall be a prerequisite for enrollment in a 300 level course and for graduation.

6 (b) The examination shall include but not be limited to testing the student skills at
7 organizational coherence, grammatical correctness, clarity of expression and satisfactory
8 comprehension of short passages of literature.

9 (c) The board shall appoint a writing proficiency examination committee consisting of no less
10 than 6 nor more than 9 faculty members of the public higher education system recommended by the
11 presidents of the system institutions. It shall be the duty of the committee to: (1) select passages from
12 literature to be included in the examination; (2) determine the wording of instructions and the format
13 of the examination; (3) select and prepare faculty members to serve as graders; and (4) oversee the
14 administration and grading of the examination.

15 (d) A chairperson shall be selected by the committee from among its members and shall serve
16 not more than 2 concurrent academic terms.

17 (e) A member of the committee shall earn 1 credit of release time for each academic term
18 served and the chairperson shall earn 3 credits of release time for each term.