

***Whereas, the price of university education in the United States is prohibitive to attendance***  
***Whereas, university is increasingly required for our rapidly changing and evolving economy from manufacturing to professional services***  
***Whereas, student debt is now hindering two generations from contributing to the wider economy and has killed economic mobility***

Be it enacted by the assembly of the Atlantic Commonwealth:

## **Section I. Title, Extent, & Severability**

- A. This act may be referred to as the "The Universal University and Student Debt Cancellation Act"
- B. The provisions of this act are severable.

## **Section II. Universal University**

- A. All public universities in the Atlantic Commonwealth are hereby barred from charging students tuition.
- B. All public universities are hereby barred from charging students for the cost of on-campus residence for their first year.
  - a. All public universities are hereby barred from requiring students to live on campus.
    - i. The exception to (a) is students who are 17 years of age and younger.

## **Section III. Out-of-State Enrollment Caps**

- A. Public University's incoming classes shall not be made up of more than 20% Out-of-State students to ensure Atlantians have access to the universities that their tax dollars pay for.

## **Section IV. The Retiring of Standardized Testing Based Admission**

- A. No public university in the Atlantic Commonwealth shall obtain SAT, ACT or any other standardized testing from students for the purpose of admission beginning with the Fall Semester of 2020.
  - a. AP and IB testing scores may be obtained by universities for admissions consideration through the Fall 2023 application period. This exception is made because studies prior to the institution of the [Horace Mann Education Reform Act](#) may include AP or IB testing. However, AP and IB testing will no longer be used by public universities in the Atlantic Commonwealth to substitute for college credit in the academic year following the signing of this bill.

## **Section V. The Creation of the University of the Atlantic System**

- 1. "The University of the Atlantic System" is hereby created. The system will consolidate the following flagship public universities in the Atlantic Commonwealth to create one unified public research university system.

**Connecticut**

- A. "The University of Connecticut - Storrs" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Hartford."
  - a. The University of the Atlantic - Hartford will be the flagship university for the University of the Atlantic system.

**Maine**

- B. "The University of Maine" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Bangor."

**New Hampshire**

- C. "The University of New Hampshire" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Portsmouth."

**Vermont**

- D. "The University of Vermont" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Burlington."

**Massachusetts**

- E. "The University of Massachusetts - Amherst" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Amherst."

**Rhode Island**

- F. "The University of Rhode Island" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Kingston."

**New York**

- G. "(SUNY) The University of Albany" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Albany."
- H. "(SUNY) The University of Rochester" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Rochester."
- I. "(SUNY) Binghamton University" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Binghamton."
- J. "(SUNY) Stony Brook University" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Stony Brook."

**New Jersey**

- K. "Rutgers University - New Brunswick" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Edison"

**Pennsylvania**

- L. "The Penn State University (Main Campus)" is hereby renamed "The University of the Atlantic - Harrisburg"

**Section VI. State Financing of Public Universities**

- A. The State of the Atlantic Commonwealth shall take on the burden of funding public universities within' the state so that they no longer require the collection of tuition to continue their operations.
- B. The State of the Atlantic Commonwealth shall allocate \$20 billion dollars to the Department of Education's 2020 budget in order to fund public universities appropriately.\*

\* This value was calculated by taking the calculated cost of providing free college tuition to all American's by the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), [\\$79 billion](#), and setting up a

proportion of the cost per person nationwide and applying the proportion to the population of the Atlantic Commonwealth. The proportion can be seen below.

$$80 / 328,000,000 = X / 55,976,989$$
$$X = 13.65292415$$

## **Section VII. The Cancellation of Atlanteans Student Debt**

- A. The Department of Education shall create a program where Atlanteans and the respective parties who own the individual's student debt may jointly apply to have their debt paid off by the State of the Atlantic Commonwealth.
  - a. Eligibility to have your student debt paid off by the Atlantic Commonwealth are as follows;
    - i. The individual has been a resident of the Atlantic Commonwealth for 5 or more years.

## **Section VIII. The Financing of the Cancelation of Atlantean's Student Debt**

- A. The total amount of student debt held by Atlantean's has been calculated by the U.S. [Department of Education's Office for Federal Student Aid](#). The calculations by the department are [sorted by the 9 regions](#) of the Atlantic Commonwealth and can be found below.

### **Maine**

- a. There is \$5.6 billion in outstanding student loans in the region of Maine.

### **New Hampshire**

- b. There is \$5.9 billion in outstanding student loans in the region of New Hampshire.

### **Vermont**

- c. There is \$2.6 billion in outstanding student loans in the region of Vermont.

### **Massachusetts**

- d. There is \$28.2 billion in outstanding student loans in the region of Massachusetts.

### **Rhode Island**

- e. There is \$4.1 billion in outstanding student loans in the region of Rhode Island.

### **Connecticut**

- f. There is \$15.4 billion in outstanding student loans in the region of Connecticut.

### **New York**

- g. There is \$85.3 billion in outstanding student loans in the region of New York.

### **New Jersey**

- h. There is \$37.6 billion in outstanding student loans in the region of New Jersey.

### **Pennsylvania**

- i. There is \$58.7 billion in outstanding student loans in the region of Pennsylvania.

- B. This brings the total amount of outstanding student loan debt held by Atlanteans to \$243.4 billion dollars. Therefore, the Department of Education shall be immediately allocated \$250 billion dollars in order to begin paying off student debt in the Atlantic Commonwealth.

#### **Section IX. Enactment**

- A. Sections II, VI, VII and VIII shall be enacted immediately.
- B. Sections III and IV shall come into effect on January 1, 2021.
- C. Section V shall come into effect on May 15, 2020.