Gov. Healey launches new financial aid program for “undocumented students” in Massachusetts

For the first time ever, “undocumented students” will be able to apply for state need-based financial aid in the state of Massachusetts. According to a press release put out by Governor Healey,

“The MASFA is an alternative form that provides students who cannot complete the Free Application for State Financial Aid (FAFSA) due to their immigration status a way to apply for state need-based financial aid.

The application launch follows the August 2023 passage of Massachusetts’ Tuition Equity Law, which allows students who have completed at least three years of high school in Massachusetts and received a high school diploma or its equivalent in the Commonwealth to access in-state tuition and be eligible for financial aid, regardless of immigration status.”

To be eligible, Massachusetts residents must meet the following criteria:

• Was admitted to a public or private institution of higher education within the Massachusetts system of public higher education.

• Have attended at least three academic years at a high school in Massachusetts.

• Have graduated from high school in Massachusetts or have received the equivalent of a high school diploma (for example,

a GED) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

• Have applied for military selective service, if eligible.

• If the individual is not a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States, that person must provide a completed the DHE Affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a citizen or legal permanent resident within 120 days after the individual becomes eligible to do so.