



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

STATE SENATOR

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**MOORE VOTES TO ALLOW NINE STATE COLLEGES TO BE NAMED
STATE UNIVERSITIES**

Boston – Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) on Thursday moved legislation forward that will permit nine state colleges in the Commonwealth to be called state universities. According to the State Colleges of Massachusetts, the “university” tag more accurately describes institutional offerings and brings “added prestige,” providing students a “competitive advantage.”

“These colleges contribute tremendously to the communities and regions in which they are located,” said Sen. Moore. “This step will enable them to enjoy the advantages that other, similar institutions with the same offerings currently do.”

Under the legislation, six colleges would adopt the following name changes, becoming: Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, Salem State University, Westfield State University, and Worcester State University.

Three additional colleges will retain their current names but would be referred to as universities and become part of the Massachusetts state university system: Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Forty-five other states have adopted state university name changes. Institutions that have assumed these name changes are schools that offer bachelor’s degrees and master’s degrees but are not research universities.

A study by the Hanover Research Council shows that institutions with state university name changes had no increased costs to students as a result of the change. The study also found that the change did not create “additional financial burdens” to state governments.

The bill now goes back to the House of Representatives for further action.

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