

UMass Dartmouth Law School Concept:

On October 5, 2009, Southern New England School of Law offered to donate real estate, facility, technology and library assets to UMass Dartmouth for the purpose of creating a public law program in Massachusetts. These assets have an estimated value of \$22 million-plus.

- \$7.7 million in building and real estate,
- \$11.5 million in library resources
- \$2.5 million in technology, furnishings, etc.
- \$1 million in cash

This would be the second largest donation in the 146-year history of UMass and the largest donation in the 114-year history of UMass Dartmouth.

The school, like other UMass graduate programs, will not require any additional taxpayer support. It will be funded through law student charges, private donations, and grant funding.

The program will return between \$500,000 and \$1 million per year to the Massachusetts general fund through standard tuition remittance.

There are currently nine law schools in Massachusetts – all private. If this proposal succeeds there will be nine law schools in Massachusetts – eight private and one public.

There are about 6,500 law school seats in Massachusetts, with about 5,500 of those situated in Boston, making legal education the most geographically condensed graduate offering in the state. This proposal will add about 200 seats outside of Boston by 2015.

Massachusetts is one of only six states without a public law school. One of those states, New Hampshire, is in the process of creating a public law school through the acquisition of Franklin Pierce Law School.

The UMass Dartmouth School of Law will be the only law school south of Boston.

The school will enhance socio-economic diversity in the legal profession.

The goal is to enroll the first law school class in the fall of 2010.

When a similar proposal was approved by the UMass Board of Trustees in 2004 the Board of Higher Education rejected the plan, primarily because the school was to be administered through continuing education. This current proposal removes continuing education from the equation.

The Department of Higher Education has pledged an “expedited” and “focused” review process as part of a legal settlement with SNESE’s Student Bar Association, which sued the BHE claiming an improper process was used in rejecting the plan in 2005.

The university must identify entrepreneurial strategies to increase revenue during this period of sharply declining state revenues. The law program will enhance UMass Dartmouth’s graduate offerings and attract talented undergraduates, especially in fields such as crime and justice, public policy, political science, and business; and will strengthen the campus’ case for philanthropic support.

The program has the overwhelming support of the southeastern Massachusetts business, educational, academic and civic community.

Tuition and fees will be less than \$24,000 per year, which will be between \$10,000 and \$20,000 less than private schools in Massachusetts, a public-private price difference that is similar to other graduate programs.