

SARA ACTION PLAN¹

- September 7, 2017- Board Retreat (provide SARA update and briefing materials to be reviewed by the BHE before its next meeting)
- September 22, 2017- draft SARA regulations target date
- September 29, 2017- draft SARA regulations distributed to Commissioner and EOE
- October 12 – 17, 2017- revisions to SARA regulations based on Commissioner and EOE feedback
- October 17, 2017- SARA motion included in BHE packet; draft SARA regulations will also be distributed to BHE for informational purposes and preliminary comment
- October 17 – 31, 2017- stakeholder vetting (SUs, CCs, UMass, AICUM, AGO); regulations will be sent to NEBHE for its review for possible conflict with SARA
- October 24, 2017- AAC meeting (motion to authorize Commissioner to submit SARA application)
- October 31, 2017- BHE Meeting (motion to authorize Commissioner to submit SARA application)
- October 31, 2017- submit regulations, along with checklist and impact statement, to ANF
- November 13, 2017- ANF meets to discuss regulations
- November 28, 2017- draft regulations and motion to put out for public comment distributed to BHE in board packet for review
- December 5, 2017- AAC meeting (motion to put draft regulations out for public comment)
- December 12, 2017- BHE meeting (motion to put draft regulations out for public comment)
- December 15, 2017- draft regulations, small business impact/fiscal effect statements, and the notice of public hearing will be brought to the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office for publication in the December 29, 2017 edition of the *Massachusetts Register*; letters will be sent to DHCD/MMA per E.O. 145

¹ Any SARA action plan is dependent upon two very important issues that, as of the date of this timeline, are unresolved. First, the DHE has not been provided, and does not presently have, the start-up funding to enter SARA. If funding is not found for DHE, through a supplemental or otherwise, to hire a SARA coordinator or to develop a database with EOE IT to track SARA applications, complaints, payments, and compliance, the absolute earliest that DHE would be able to begin accepting applications would be if/when departmental funding is received as part of the FY19 budget (which could be any time after July 1, 2018). Second, NC-SARA, via NEBHE, has informed DHE that degree-granting institutions approved to operate under SARA are also permitted to offer their non-degree programs through SARA, and that approval to participate in SARA cannot be limited to certain programs offered by an institution. This could be problematic, because non-degree programs offered by degree-granting institutions are currently not approved by the BHE. DHE is reviewing its options to determine how this jurisdictional gap can be addressed, which may, include possible statutory revisions or an agreement with the Division of Professional Licensure, the entity that currently oversees most post-secondary, non-degree granting entities.

- December 22, 2017- the notices of public hearing will be sent to the *Boston Globe* for publication (publication in the *Globe* is likely to occur 3-4 days after submission)
- December 29, 2017- publication of draft regulations and notices of public hearing in the *Massachusetts Register*
- January 16, 2018- Public Hearing date, One Ashburton Place, Room 1401
- December 29, 2017 – January 19, 2018- public comment period
- January 23, 2018- BHE meeting (provide update)
- January 22 – February 16, 2018- revisions according to public hearing/comment (if necessary)
- February 20, 2018- final regulations distributed to BHE for review in board packet
- February 27, 2018- AAC meeting (final regulations up for approval)
- March 6, 2018- BHE meeting (final regulations up for approval)
- March 8, 2018- submit final small business impact statement to Secretary of Commonwealth
- March 9, 2018- submit final regulations to Secretary of Commonwealth for publication in the March 23, 2018 edition of the *Massachusetts Register*. (This is the **last** day that the documents can be submitted so that they appear in that edition.)
- March 23, 2018- publication of the final regulations in the *Massachusetts Register*; regulations will be final
- Two weeks before the first NEBHE meeting scheduled after March 23, 2018- submit application to join SARA to NEBHE for consideration at its next Regional Steering Committee meeting
- TBD, 2018- NEBHE Regional Steering Committee meeting at which Massachusetts' application to join SARA will be considered and voted upon
- No later than Summer, 2018- DHE begins accepting institutional applications to join SARA²

² See footnote 1.