

HOUSE No. 1901

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

William M. Straus

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

William M. Straus

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

10th Bristol

HOUSE No. 1901

By Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1901) of William M. Straus for an investigation by a special commission relative to retirement benefits provided to Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority employees. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. There is hereby established a special commission to investigate and report
2 on retirement benefits provided to employees of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
3 consisting of the following members: the secretary of transportation, or a designee; the treasurer,
4 or a designee; the executive director of the Public Employee Retirement Administration
5 Commission, or a designee; the secretary of administration and finance, or a designee; and the
6 president of Massachusetts AFL-CIO, or a designee. The executive director of the MBTA
7 Retirement Fund shall serve on the commission ex officio as a non-voting member. The report
8 shall analyze the feasibility of providing retirement benefits to future employees of the Authority
9 solely and exclusively under chapter 32 of the General Laws as opposed to any other statutory or
10 contractual plan or system under which current Authority employees are eligible to receive
11 retirement benefits, and shall examine and report on, without limitation: (i) all retirement
12 benefits currently received by retirees of the Authority and retirement benefits for which current
13 employees of the Authority are eligible; (ii) relevant contractual provisions and applicable

14 federal and state laws and the legal effects thereof; (iii) transition costs and implementation and
15 logistical considerations; (iv) the relative impact on pension benefits; and (v) the advisability of
16 so providing retirement benefits to future employees of the Authority pursuant to chapter 32 of
17 the General Laws, and if so, a proposed effective date; provided, that any recommendations
18 contained in the report shall have considered the need for the continued sustainability of the
19 statutory and contractual retirement benefits provided for existing employees of the Authority.
20 Not later than July 1, 2017, the commission shall file the report with the the house and senate
21 committees on ways and means, the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
22 transportation, and the clerks of the house of representatives and senate.