

HOUSE No. 3908

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 9, 2023.

The committee on Transportation to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3315) of Brandy Fluker Oakley and others relative to service on the Fairmount commuter rail line, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 3908) ought to pass.

For the committee,

WILLIAM M. STRAUS.

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act improving rail service on the Fairmount commuter rail line.

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. Within 180 days following the effective date of this act, the Massachusetts
2 Bay Transportation Authority and operator of commuter rail service shall ensure frequent and
3 affordable service on the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line, which shall be renamed as the
4 Fairmount/Indigo Line. For the purposes of this section, “frequent and affordable service” shall
5 require: (i) not fewer than three train-sets dedicated to Fairmount/Indigo Line service; provided
6 that such train-sets shall be specially wrapped and marked as Fairmount/Indigo Line trains; and
7 provided further, that such train-sets shall not be diverted from Fairmount/Indigo Line service for
8 any purpose except maintenance; (ii) enhanced headways during peak hours; (iii) the ability to
9 pay for fares for Fairmount/Indigo Line service with fare media including, but not limited to,
10 CharlieCards or its equivalent successor product, M7 Passes, S-Cards, Youth Passes, and other
11 discounted fare medium available to people with disabilities, seniors, and students; (iv) fares
12 levied at the same rate charged to ride the subway network, with free transfers to connecting bus
13 lines and to the Red and Silver Lines at South Station; (v) bus service at Fairmount/Indigo Line

14 stations synchronized with train schedules to the maximum extent feasible; and (vi) the
15 construction of high-level ADA-compliant platforms at Readville and Fairmount stations.

16 SECTION 2. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall study and report on
17 the feasibility and cost of constructing, operating and maintaining the following improvements to
18 the Fairmount/Indigo Line: (i) additional entrances and redundant elevators and stairs at existing
19 stations and (ii) additional infill stations, including without limitation stations at Columbia Road
20 and River Street. The report shall be delivered to the house and senate chairs of the joint
21 committee on transportation and the clerks of the house of representatives and senate not later
22 than 1 year following the effective date of this act.

23 SECTION 3: Not later than July 1, 2025, the Massachusetts Department of
24 Transportation shall complete designs for the electrification of the Fairmount Commuter Rail
25 Line between South Station and Readville; provided, that such designs shall be sufficient to
26 apply for federal stimulus funding to ensure electrification on the Fairmount Commuter Rail
27 Line between South Station and Readville.