

HOUSE No. 5183

Section 93 contained in the engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2021 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions and certain activities of the commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund and serial bond requirements and for certain permanent improvements (see House, No. 5164), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message, see Attachment G of House, No. 5190).
December 14, 2020.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to regional transit authority funding distribution.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for regional transit authority funding distribution, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, for fiscal year
2 2021, of the \$94,000,000 transferred in item 1595-6370 of section 2E, \$90,500,000 shall be
3 considered operating assistance and distributed to regional transit authorities based on fiscal year
4 2020 distributions, in accordance with the fiscal year 2020 bilateral memorandum of
5 understanding between each regional transit authority and the Massachusetts Department of
6 Transportation; provided, however, that each regional transit authority shall receive operating
7 assistance from this item of not less than the amount received in fiscal year 2020; and provided
8 further, that notwithstanding the forgoing, \$3,500,000 of said operating assistance shall be

9 distributed to each regional transit authority using a formula based on total transit ridership, the
10 population of its member communities and service coverage area, provided that the formula be
11 unanimously agreed to by all regional transit authorities and approved by the department. The
12 operating assistance amount shall be spent to advance the goals and targets in the fiscal year
13 2020 bilateral memorandum of understanding between each regional transit authority and the
14 department.

15 Of the amount to be distributed under item 1595-6370 of section 2E, \$3,500,000 shall be
16 distributed as performance grants to regional transit authorities. The performance grants shall be
17 distributed to regional transit authorities that best demonstrate compliance with, or a
18 commitment to, the service decisions, quality of service and environmental sustainability
19 recommendations from the report of the task force on regional transit authority performance and
20 funding established pursuant to section 72 of chapter 154 of the acts of 2018. The department
21 may require each regional transit authority to provide data on ridership, customer service and
22 satisfaction, asset management and financial performance, including farebox recovery, and shall
23 compile any collected data into a report on the performance of regional transit authorities and
24 each authority's progress toward meeting the performance metrics established in the
25 memorandum of understanding. The report shall be filed with the clerks of the senate and house
26 of representatives, the senate and house committees on ways and means and the joint committee
27 on transportation not later than July 31, 2021.

28 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect as of July 1, 2020.