

SENATE No. 2277

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 to increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/1/2021</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/4/2021</i>
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>

SENATE No. 2277

By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2277) of Harriette L. Chandler, Jack Patrick Lewis, Rebecca L. Rausch, Lindsay N. Sabadosa and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth.

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. Subsection (d) of section 2ZZZ of Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as so
2 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out clause (2) and inserting in place thereof the
3 following clause:-

4 (2) Not less than \$94,000,000 in each fiscal year to regional transit authorities organized
5 under chapter 161B or predecessor laws; provided, however, that notwithstanding any special or
6 general law to the contrary: (i) the transfer required by this clause shall be increased by the
7 inflation index as defined in section 35T of chapter 10 for the preceding 12 months as certified
8 by the comptroller annually on March 1; and (ii) no transfer required under this clause shall
9 excess 103 percent of the transfer amount for the prior fiscal year.

10 SECTION 2. Section 8 §(c)(iii) of Chapter 187 of the Acts of 2016 is hereby amended by
11 adding, after the word “Laws,” the following:-

12 “; provided that 50 percent of the funds received shall be appropriated for the
13 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority; and further, that 50 percent of the funds received
14 shall be appropriated for the regional transit authorities organized under chapter 161B or
15 predecessor statutes, provided, however, this shall be in addition to the operational transfer of
16 section 2ZZZ of Chapter 29 of the General laws.”

17 SECTION 3. Section 27 of chapter 161B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking
18 the section in its entirety and replacing it with the following section:

19 Section 27. There shall be a regional transit authority council for the purposes of
20 coordination and sharing information and best practices in matters of security and public safety
21 planning and preparedness, service delivery, cost savings, and administrative efficiencies. The
22 council shall draft an annual report identifying funding, service and technical assistance needs as
23 well as identifying service gaps, including gaps and barriers to 7-day a week service statewide,
24 and opportunities, including for cross-RTA-MBTA services. The report shall be submitted to the
25 secretary and to the Joint Committee on Transportation and the House and Senate Committees on
26 Ways and Means.

27 Members of the council shall include the administrator of each authority established
28 under section 14, two frequent riders of a regional transit authority appointed annually by the
29 Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies on a revolving basis, and a member of
30 a Regional Planning Agency outside of the core MBTA service area. The secretary shall be
31 chairman of the council and the general manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation
32 Authority shall be a non-voting member of the council. The council shall meet no less than once
33 each calendar quarter or upon the request, with reasonable notice, of the secretary.

34 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the
35 Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall take such steps as may be necessary to
36 provide for the development, promotion, preservation and improvement of an adequate regional
37 transit authority capital plan, which takes into account federal funds being used by RTAs for
38 preventative maintenance rather than capital. Where state capital funds are used as a match for
39 federal capital funds, the department shall provide an equal or greater percentage match to
40 regional transit authorities as provided to the MBTA.

41 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the
42 Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall provide each regional transit authority
43 established under chapter 161B of the General Laws with assistance in creating an Electric Bus
44 Rollout Plan that includes all of the following components: (a) a goal of full transition to zero-
45 emission buses with careful planning that avoids early retirement of conventional internal
46 combustion engine buses; (b) Identification of the types of zero-emission bus technologies a
47 transit agency is planning to deploy, such as battery electric or fuel cell electric bus; (c) a
48 schedule for construction of facilities and infrastructure modifications or upgrades, including
49 charging, fueling, and maintenance facilities, to deploy and maintain zero-emission buses. This
50 schedule must identify the general location of each facility, type of infrastructure, service
51 capacity of an infrastructure, and a timeline for construction; (d) a schedule for zero-emission
52 and conventional internal combustion engine buse purchases and lease options. This schedule for
53 bus replacements must identify the bus types, fuel types, and number of buses; (e) a schedule for
54 conversion of conventional internal combustion engine buses to zero-emission buses, if any. This
55 schedule for bus conversion must identify the number of buses, bus types, the propulsion system
56 being removed and converted to; (f) a plan on how the transit agency plans to deploy zero-

57 emission buses in environmental justice communities; (g) a training plan and schedule for zero-
58 emission bus operators and maintenance and repair staff; and (h) Identification of potential
59 funding sources.

60 SECTION 6. Section 6A of chapter 6C of the general laws, as so appearing, is hereby
61 amended by striking out clause (8) and adding the following clause, “(8) The department shall
62 not consider the farebox recovery ratio in funding decision or formula for transit authorities.”