

SENATE No. 2458

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)
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SENATE, Thursday, April 19, 2018

The committee on Transportation, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1935) of Eric P. Lesser, Adam G. Hinds, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Thomas M. McGee and other members of the General Court for legislation to study the feasibility of high-speed rail access between Springfield and Boston,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2458).

For the committee,
Joseph A. Boncore

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An Act to study the feasibility of high-speed rail access between Springfield and Boston.

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

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Massachusetts
2 Department of Transportation shall conduct a feasibility study relative to rail service between the
3 cities of Pittsfield, Springfield and Boston.

4 The study shall examine and evaluate all costs and economic opportunities related to
5 establishing rail service between the cities of Pittsfield, Springfield and Boston, including but not
6 limited to: (i) a preliminary determination as to the advisability of providing such service by
7 means of upgrading, if necessary, existing lines west to Springfield and Pittsfield versus the
8 construction of new track along some or all of the proposed route; (ii) the projected capital costs,
9 including without limitation all costs associated with any required takings, the purchase of
10 additional rolling stock, construction of additional maintenance facilities and stations, and the
11 installation of positive train control along the proposed route; (iii) projected operating costs; (iv)
12 projected timeline for design, permitting, and construction; (v) projected ridership levels and
13 revenue estimates; (vi) the feasibility of operating such rail service on existing rights of way and
14 other operational issues related to providing such service, including without limitation its effect

15 on scheduling and performance levels with respect to existing commuter rail lines; (vii) an
16 assessment of the environmental and community impacts; (viii) a list of all permits, consents,
17 and approvals that potentially may be required from any federal, state, local, or private entities;
18 (ix) an inventory of grade crossings and signalization requirements; (x) the availability of
19 federal, state, local and private sector funding sources, including without limitation an
20 assessment of potential contributions that may be derived from value capture programs; (xi) the
21 resulting economic, social and cultural benefits to the greater Springfield and Pittsfield regions
22 and the commonwealth as a whole; and (xii) a preliminary assessment of possible community
23 mitigation during construction and operation of the service.

24 The department shall file the report with the clerks of the house of representatives and
25 senate, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means and the house and
26 senate chairs of the joint committee on transportation not later than March 1, 2019.