

**SENATE . . . . . No. 246**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***William N. Brownsberger***

*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 school transportation parity.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Mayor Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>Boston City Hall</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>One City Hall Square</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Boston, MA 02201</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>

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By Mr. Brownsberger, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 246) of William N. Brownsberger, Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Daniel J. Hunt, Daniel J. Ryan and others for legislation relative to school transportation parity. Education.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act relative to school transportation parity.

*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 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition is  
2 hereby amended by striking out subsection (cc) and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 subsection:-

4 (cc) The students who reside in the school district in which the charter school is located  
5 shall be provided transportation to the charter school by the resident school district on similar  
6 terms and conditions as transportation is provided to students attending local district schools if  
7 the transportation is requested by the charter school. The charter school and the sending district  
8 shall meet to plan bus routes and charter school starting and ending times in order to assist the  
9 district with cost effective means of transportation. The school district shall be responsible for  
10 the cost of said transportation; provided, however, that if the school district and the charter  
11 school do not reach agreement on the start time of the charter school’s day, the school district  
12 shall be responsible for 50 per cent of the charter school’s transportation costs and the charter

13 school shall be responsible for the other 50 per cent. The school district shall only be responsible  
14 for transportation costs on days that both district and charter schools are in session.

15           The municipality and school district in which a charter is located shall not be responsible  
16 for any transportation costs incurred by a charter through an independent transportation vendor.

17           If a school district limits transportation for district school students, the charter school's  
18 transportation shall be subject to the same limitations, which may include travel distance limits,  
19 mode of transportation, attendance zones, geographic subdivisions of the district, or limits  
20 included in a district's school assignment or transportation policies.

21           Schools operating under a charter granted after January 1, 1997, and all charter schools  
22 operating during fiscal year 1999 and thereafter, shall not receive funds for transportation above  
23 the amount actually required by such charter school for the provision of transportation services to  
24 eligible students. If the sending district provides an alternative method of transportation for  
25 students enrolled in the sending district's public schools, it shall not be assessed for  
26 transportation costs which exceed the per pupil cost of said alternative. Costs for transportation  
27 shall be included only if transportation is provided for students in the same program and grade  
28 level as those in the charter school. Students who do not reside in the district in which the charter  
29 school is located shall be eligible for transportation in accordance with section 12B of chapter  
30 76. A regional charter school as designated by the board, and whose charter provides for  
31 transportation of all students from charter municipalities shall also be reimbursed by the  
32 commonwealth under section 16C of chapter 71 for transportation provided to pupils residing  
33 outside the municipality where the charter school is located, but no reimbursement for

34 transportation between the charter school and home shall be made on account of any pupil who  
35 resides less than 1.5 miles from the charter school, measured by a commonly traveled route.