

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3413**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Natalie M. Blais*

*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:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>	<i>3/4/2021</i>
<i>Steven C. Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>Daniel R. Carey</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3413**

By Ms. Blais of Sunderland, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3413) of Natalie M. Blais and others relative to regional transit accessibility. 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 An Act to Increase Regional Transit Accessibility in the Commonwealth

2 SECTION 1. Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 2ZZZ of Chapter 29 of the General  
3 Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out clause (2) and inserting in place thereof  
4 the following clause:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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