

SENATE No. 2217

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brendan P. Crighton

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 setting deadlines to electrify the MBTA commuter rail.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Edward R. Philips</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/24/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/24/2023</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>Third Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/24/2023</i>

SENATE No. 2217

By Mr. Crighton, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2217) of Brendan P. Crighton, Rebecca L. Rausch, Steven Owens, Jack Patrick Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to public transit electrification. Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2292 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to setting deadlines to electrify the MBTA commuter rail.

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. Section 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following definitions:-

3 “Zero-emission infrastructure” means electric multiple units, electric battery chargers,
4 trolleybus and railway catenary wire, and other equipment to support the operation of electric
5 vehicles.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 21N is hereby amended by inserting after Section 7, the following
7 sections:

8 Section 7½. To contribute to the Commonwealth’s greenhouse gas reduction targets, the
9 Secretary, in consultation with the department of energy resources, department of transportation,

10 department of environmental protection, department of public utilities, and intergovernmental
11 coordinating council established by the Acts of 2022, chapter 179, section 81 shall enforce
12 targets for public fleet electrification.

13 (a)The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and its commuter rail contractor
14 shall operate a fully electric commuter rail system by December 31, 2035 and ensure sufficient
15 zero-emission infrastructure is in place to accomplish said timeline.

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 161A is hereby amended by inserting the following paragraphs in
17 section 7 after the term “under Section 6C”:

18 (a) The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall implement electrification
19 along all commuter rail lines by no later than December 31, 2035 and according to the below
20 interim deadlines for each phase. Commuter rail lines serving environmental justice populations
21 as defined in section 62 of chapter 30 of the General Laws shall be the first lines to electrify in
22 Phase I. In Phase I, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall operate electric trains
23 on the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line from South Station to Readville Station,
24 Newburyport/Rockport Line through Beverly Station and the entire Providence/Stoughton Line
25 by December 31, 2024. Not later than November 1, 2023, the Massachusetts Department of
26 Transportation should begin construction on the Fairmount corridor Newburyport/Rockport Line
27 environmental justice corridor to support rail electrification. In Phase II, the Massachusetts Bay
28 Transportation Authority shall operate electric trains on the Framingham/Worcester Line by
29 December 31, 2026. In Phase III, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall operate
30 electric trains on the Middleborough/Lakeville Line by December 31, 2027. In Phase IV, the

31 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall operate electric trains on the remaining routes
32 listed below and remaining sections of the Newburyport/Rockport Lines by December 31, 2035:

33 (1) South Coast

34 (2) Haverhill

35 (3) Lowell

36 (4) Fitchburg

37 (5) Franklin/Foxboro

38 (6) Kingston

39 (7) Greenbush

40 (8) Foxboro Event Service

41 (9) Needham

42 (10) Newburyport/ Rockport (beyond Beverly)

43 The MBTA governing board of directors shall monitor the progress of electrifying the
44 commuter rail fleet in four phases.

45 SECTION 4. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall implement service
46 frequency standards to ensure that rail electrification technology meets the goals of a regional
47 rail system. By December 31, 2029, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall have
48 the ability to operate service on the Fairmount Line, Newburyport/Rockport Line through Salem
49 Station, and the Providence/Stoughton Line every 7.5 minutes in each direction. By December

50 31, 2029, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall have the ability to operate
51 service on the Newburyport/Rockport Line branches from Beverly Station to
52 Newburyport/Rockport every 15-30 minutes in each direction. By December 31, 2035, the
53 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall have the ability to operate service on the
54 Worcester Line through Framingham Station every 15 minutes in each direction. By December
55 31, 2029, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall have the ability to operate
56 service on the remaining Lines and portions of Lines not mentioned above every 30-60 minutes
57 in each direction. By December 31, 2035, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall
58 have the ability to operate service on the Fairmount Line, Newburyport/Rockport Line through
59 Salem Station, the Providence/Stoughton Line, and the Worcester Line through Framingham
60 Station every 5 minutes in each direction. By December 31, 2035, the Massachusetts Bay
61 Transportation Authority shall have the ability to operate service on the remaining Lines and
62 portions of Lines not mentioned above every 15 minutes in each direction. The Massachusetts
63 Bay Transportation Authority Board of Directors shall monitor the progress of the
64 implementation of the service frequency standards.

65 The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and Massachusetts Department of
66 Transportation shall submit applications, as appropriate, for federal funding to accomplish zero-
67 emission infrastructure and electric commuter rail operations.