

SENATE No. 2266

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

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 an interstate compact for western MA rail service.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul W. Mark

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and
Hampshire*

SENATE No. 2266

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2266) of Paul W. Mark for legislation relative to an interstate compact for western MA rail service. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to an interstate compact for western MA rail service.

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. The secretary of transportation is hereby authorized and directed to develop,
2 participate in the development of, negotiate and enter into compacts on behalf of the
3 Commonwealth with the states of Connecticut, New York, and Vermont, or any appropriate
4 agency or jurisdiction thereof, to implement the following purposes:

5 (a) It shall be the purpose of this compact, through means of joint and cooperative action
6 among the compacting states to: (i) establish permanent commuter rail service between the cities
7 of New Haven and Brattleboro including stops in Greenfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and
8 Springfield; (ii) establish permanent commuter rail service between the cities of Worcester and
9 Albany including stops in Pittsfield, Chester, Springfield, and Palmer; (iii) explore the extension
10 of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Program along the Knowledge Corridor through
11 Holyoke, Northampton, Greenfield, and Brattleboro; (iv) publicly promote permanent commuter
12 rail services connecting Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties to Albany,

13 Boston, Brattleboro, Hartford, and New Haven, and undertake efforts to ensure the success of
14 permanent commuter rail service in Western Massachusetts.

15 (b) It shall be the policy of the compacting states that the activities conducted by any
16 interstate commissions created are the formation of public policies and therefore are public
17 business. Furthermore, the compacting states shall cooperate and observe their individual and
18 collective duties and responsibilities to ensure the success of any programs established. The
19 provisions of this compact shall be reasonably and liberally construed to accomplish the
20 purposes and policies of the compact.