

SENATE No. 2235

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul R. Feeney

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 remediate and reopen the visitor information center on I-95 in Northern Bristol County for traveler safety and convenience and to promote regional tourism and economic development.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Adam Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>11/21/2023</i>

SENATE No. 2235

By Mr. Feeney, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2235) of Paul R. Feeney and F. Jay Barrows for legislation to remediate and reopen the visitor information center on I-95 in Northern Bristol County for traveler safety and convenience and to promote regional tourism and economic development. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to remediate and reopen the visitor information center on I-95 in Northern Bristol County for traveler safety and convenience and to promote regional tourism and economic development.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the highway
2 division of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall, within 90 days of the passage
3 of this act, convene a working group of appropriate departmental staff to analyze and make
4 recommendations on the reopening of the tourist information center located on interstate
5 highway route 95 north in the town of Mansfield and converting the rest area facility to a
6 regional visitor information center for the purposes of promoting local and regional businesses
7 and tourist destinations.

8 SECTION 2. The working group shall study, analyze and create recommendations
9 regarding: (i) removal of surplus highway material, vehicles, signage and supplies impeding the
10 full use of the facility and parking lot; (ii) removal of roadway debris and litter on the site; (iii)
11 plans to redesign, rehabilitate and reconstruct the existing structure and associated funding needs

12 to achieve a state of good repair; (iv) safety improvements; (v) accessibility upgrades; (vi)
13 restroom reconstruction; (vii) a schedule of regular, routine landscaping; (viii) roadway paving;
14 (ix) installation of vehicle charging stations; (x) regular staffing of the facility; (xi) allowable
15 activities under 23 USC 111(a), such as commercial advertising and media displays, items
16 designed to promote tourism, tickets for events or attractions, travel-related information and
17 lottery machines; (xii) a system of measuring guests and car counts who enter and exit the
18 facility; (xiii) additional allowable uses, activities or stipulations; (xiv) a draft memorandum of
19 understanding for the purpose of contracting with the regional tourism council, chambers of
20 commerce or other entities to reopen the facility as a working visitor information center; and (xv)
21 projected costs associated with achieving a state of good repair at the facility.

22 SECTION 3. The working group's findings shall be filed with the clerks of the house of
23 representatives and the senate not later than June 1, 2024.