

HOUSE No. 4828

Section 87 contained in the engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2019 (see House, No. 4800), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message, see Attachment J of House, No. 4833). July 27, 2018.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to commuter rail fare rates.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for a study of the methods used to set commuter rail fare rates, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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 Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall complete a
2 comprehensive review and study of the current methods utilized to set fare rates on the
3 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority commuter rail. The study shall include, but not be
4 limited to, an examination of: (i) the fairness and equity of the current distance based fare system
5 that utilizes fare zones; (ii) pricing based on track distance from the terminal station; (iii) the
6 impacts of commuter rail fare price on passengers’ transportation choices, considering
7 frequency of service, travel time and parking costs, between commuter rail, motor vehicle
8 transportation, public bus and subway service; (iv) the potential for lower interzone fares to
9 encourage ridership outside core central stations; (v) the potential for discounted fares for riders

10 in gateway cities or similarly situated municipalities; and (vi) the potential for utilizing a variable
11 pricing system based on the time of day.

12 To complete the study, the department shall utilize, to the extent possible, updated
13 passenger counts at all commuter rail stations for the most recent calendar year, including data
14 collected using an automated passenger count system from all commuter rail cars. The
15 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall use the outcome of the study and the data
16 collection to inform fare policy decisions. The department shall submit a written report of its
17 findings, including recommendations, with the clerks of the senate and the house of
18 representatives, the senate and house committees on ways and means and the joint committee on
19 transportation not later than January 1, 2019.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect as of July 1, 2018.