

HOUSE No. 3227

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act to preserve the right of way for the North South Rail Link..

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 161C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after the last sentence the following sentence:—

3 Furthermore, to carry out the purposes of this section, the Commonwealth of
4 Massachusetts shall preserve intact the right of way for the proposed North South Rail Link.
5 This right of way is extremely vulnerable to the impact of development and redevelopment
6 around the existing rail tracks and terminals. In addition, rail projects already in planning and
7 construction phases will exceed the capacity of the South Station terminal. Preservation of the
8 right of way for the North South Rail Link will assure that rail transportation can be enhanced or
9 expanded in our region.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 161C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting
11 after section 7 the following section:—

12 Section 8. This section requires the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through its
13 executive office of transportation and construction, in consultation with the Massachusetts

14 turnpike authority, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to perform a study to
15 specifically identify and map the necessary right of way to allow for the construction of the
16 proposed North South Rail Link connecting North Station to South Station. This study must
17 include particular reference to the Major Investment Study/Draft Environmental Impact Report
18 (EOEA#10270), prepared under the aegis of the executive office of environmental affairs which
19 was concluded on March 31, 2003. A plan to preserve said right of way, once identified, shall be
20 determined and implemented immediately.