HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1629 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 353

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James J. Dwyer

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 school transportation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James J. Dwyer	*30th Middlesex*
Stephen L. DiNatale	*3rd Worcester*
Elizabeth A. Poirier	*14th Bristol*
Todd M. Smola	*1st Hampden*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 353

By Mr. Dwyer of Woburn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 353) of James J. Dwyer and others relative to school transportation. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *377* OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act relative to school transportation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 68 of chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking the section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following section:

Section 68. Every town shall provide and maintain a sufficient number of schoolhouses, properly furnished and conveniently situated for the accommodation of all children therein entitled to attend the public schools. In determining eligibility for transportation, the school committee shall consider including limits on the basis of attendance zones, zip codes or other geographic subdivisions of the district. Nothing contained in the preceding sentence shall be construed to limit the obligation of regional school districts to provide transportation for all school children in grades kindergarten through twelve, pursuant to the provisions in section sixteen C of this chapter. No school committee shall be compelled to furnish transportation on a

private way. In the case of transportation provided to students that is not required by this section or by any other general or special law, a school committee may assess fees to the transported student up to an amount sufficient to cover the costs incurred by the district; provided, however, that no student eligible for free or reduced lunch, under the federal school lunch program, shall be required to pay the fee; and provided further, that a school committee may choose to exempt families at other income levels as it may determine. The school committee, unless the town otherwise directs, shall have general charge and superintendence of the schoolhouses, shall keep them in good order, and shall, at the expense of the town, procure a suitable place for the schools, if there is no schoolhouse, and provide fuel and all other things necessary for the comfort of the pupils. Each school shall comply with the requirements regarding pesticide applications as set forth in sections 6C to 6I, inclusive, of chapter 132B. Whenever a town shall undertake to provide a schoolhouse, the town shall appoint at least one member of the school committee, or its designee, to serve on the agency, board or committee to which the planning and construction or other acquisition of such schoolhouse is delegated.