

**SENATE . . . . . No. 288**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Anne M. Gobi*

*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 vocational education transportation for nonresident students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter J. Durant</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 288**

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By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 288) of Anne M. Gobi and Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. for legislation relative to vocational education transportation for nonresident students. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 407 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to vocational education transportation for nonresident students.

*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 first sentence of section 8A of chapter 74 of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word  
3 “municipality” the following words:-

4           “which is neither a member of a regional vocational school district nor has its own  
5 vocational school”

6           SECTION 2. Section 8A of said chapter 74, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
7 by adding the following paragraph:-

8           Subject to appropriation, the board of education shall develop and administer a  
9 nonresident vocational education transportation reimbursement program for the purpose of

10 providing reimbursement for the transportation of pupils whose town of residence is a member of  
11 a regional vocational school district or has its own vocational school. Pupils eligible for said  
12 reimbursement must be eligible to receive free or reduced cost lunches under eligibility  
13 guidelines promulgated by the federal government under 42 USC section 1758. The board may  
14 limit said reimbursement to a yearly amount. The types of transportation to be reimbursed  
15 pursuant to said program shall include, but need not be limited to, the following: (1)  
16 transportation by school buses provided by the sending or receiving district; (2) transportation  
17 provided by the parent or guardian of the child; (3) transportation provided by public  
18 transportation. All eligible pupils who attend a school district contiguous to the school district of  
19 residence of such pupil shall be eligible for said reimbursement. If cost-effective transportation  
20 alternatives exist for pupils who attend districts not contiguous to the school districts of residence  
21 of such pupil, the board may provide a transportation reimbursement. Said reimbursements may  
22 be paid to the district in which the pupil is enrolled, the district of residence of the student, or the  
23 parent, guardian or person acting as guardian of the student; provided, however, that said district  
24 or parent provide documentation of the transportation expenditure. The board of education shall  
25 promulgate regulations for the program to be placed on file with the joint committee on  
26 education of the general court. The board of education shall disseminate information to parents  
27 and school systems detailing the availability of said transportation reimbursements. A full  
28 description of said nonresident vocational education transportation reimbursement program shall  
29 be submitted to the house and senate committees on ways and means and shall not become  
30 effective until ninety days after said submission. Nothing in this section shall confer upon any  
31 nonresident student attending a vocational school any right to transportation or reimbursement  
32 therefor.