

HOUSE No. 316

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel J. Ryan

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 parity.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>1/18/2017</i>
<i>Mayor Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>Office of Mayor Martin J. Walsh, 1 City Hall Square, Suite 500, Boston, MA</i>	<i>1/18/2017</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>

HOUSE No. 316

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 316) of Daniel J. Ryan, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Daniel J. Hunt for legislation to provide students transportation to charter schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to school transportation parity.

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 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out subsection (cc) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

3 (cc) The students who reside in the school district in which the charter school is located
4 shall be provided transportation to the charter school by the resident school district on similar
5 terms and conditions as transportation is provided to students attending local district schools if
6 the transportation is requested by the charter school. The charter school and the sending district
7 shall meet to plan bus routes and charter school starting and ending times in order to assist the
8 district with the most cost effective and equitable means of transportation. The school district
9 shall only be responsible for transportation costs on days that both district and charter schools are
10 in session. The school district shall be responsible for the cost of said transportation; provided,
11 however, that if the school district and the charter school do not reach agreement on the start
12 time of the charter schools day, the school district shall be responsible for only 50 per cent of the

13 actual charter schools transportation costs and the remaining 50% of the actual charter school
14 transportation cost shall be deducted from the charter tuition assessment paid by the
15 municipality. The municipality and school district in which a charter is located shall not be
16 responsible for any transportation costs incurred by a charter school through an independent
17 transportation vendor.

18 If a school district limits transportation for district school students, the charter
19 schools transportation shall be subject to the same limitations, which may include travel distance
20 limits, mode of transportation, attendance zones, geographic subdivisions of the district, or limits
21 included in a districts school assignment or transportation policies.

22 Schools operating under a charter granted after January 1, 1997, and all charter
23 schools operating during fiscal year 1999 and thereafter, shall not receive funds for
24 transportation above the amount actually required by such charter school for the provision of
25 transportation services to eligible students. If the sending district provides an alternative method
26 of transportation for students enrolled in the sending districts public schools, it shall not be
27 assessed for transportation costs which exceed the per pupil cost of said alternative. Costs for
28 transportation shall be included only if transportation is provided for students in the same
29 program and grade level as those in the charter school. Students who do not reside in the district
30 in which the charter school is located shall be eligible for transportation in accordance with
31 section 12B of chapter 76. A regional charter school as designated by the board, and whose
32 charter provides for transportation of all students from charter municipalities shall also be
33 reimbursed by the commonwealth under section 16C of chapter 71 for transportation provided to
34 pupils residing outside the municipality where the charter school is located, but no
35 reimbursement for transportation between the charter school and home shall be made on account

36 of any pupil who resides less than 1.5 miles from the charter school, measured by a commonly
37 traveled route.